

TENSE SUMMIT EXPECTED



US President Barack Obama reacts during a press conference at Rosenbad, the seat of the Swedish government in Stockholm, Sweden, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013. US President Obama is on a visit to Sweden, ahead of the G20 summit, held in St. Petersburg, Russia.

(AP Photo/Frank Augstein)

Diminished Obama heads to Russia for G-20 meet

STEVEN LEE MYERS

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ST. PETERSBURG, Russia

Not even a month ago, President Barack Obama canceled a planned summit meeting with President Vladimir V. Putin, citing Russia's decision to grant asylum to Edward J. Snowden as evidence of a broader deterioration of their relations.

"We weren't going to have a summit for the sake of appearances," the president's deputy national security adviser, Benjamin J. Rhodes, said then.

On Thursday, Obama will

arrive here for a meeting of the Group of 20 nations, and it is he as much as Putin who has to worry about appearances.

He heads into the gathering facing questions about his leadership and his policies at home and abroad - from his threat to respond to the use of chemical weapons in Syria to efforts to revive the flagging global economy to Snowden's disclosures about American eavesdropping on some of the very leaders who will be here with him, including Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico and Dilma Rousseff of Brazil.

Given diplomatic niceties, any public confrontation at the newly refurbished Constantine Palace on the Gulf of Finland near here is unlikely, but Obama's standing on the world stage has undoubtedly suffered from the recent turmoil.

That has complicated his relations not only with Russia and China, but also with allies like Germany and Britain, which have refused to endorse military action against the forces of Syria's president, Bashar Assad, even if they share Obama's concern about the use of chemical weapons.

Syria, even more than tensions between the United States and Russia generally, will overshadow the annual meeting of the G-20 leaders, which is normally largely devoted to the world's economy. Under Russia's leadership, this year's agenda deals with economic stimulus, currency rates and efforts to discourage corporate tax evasion.

After reports of the chemical attack emerged on Aug. 21, Putin's vehement opposition to any foreign intervention seemed at first to leave Russia embarrass-

ingly isolated in its defense of Assad's government. But in the weeks since, other nations and leaders have moved closer to his insistence that any intervention would be unlawful without the authorization of the United Nations.

"I want to draw your attention to one absolutely fundamental fact," Putin said in a lengthy interview with The Associated Press and the Russian state television network Channel One, published Wednesday.

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AP EXCLUSIVE:

Israeli proposal detailed in latest round of talks

J. FEDERMAN

M. DARAGHMEH

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— Israel has proposed leaving intact dozens of Jewish settlements and military bases in the West Bank as

part of a package to establish a Palestinian state in provisional borders, a Palestinian official told The Associated Press on Wednesday, in the first detailed glimpse at recently relaunched peace talks.

The official said the proposal is unacceptable to the Palestinians, underscoring the tough road ahead as the sides try to reach an agreement ending decades of conflict. The official spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity because Israel and the Palestinians have pledged to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry not to discuss the content of their talks with the media — a pledge that has largely held up until now.

For their future state, the Palestinians seek the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war.

With Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposed to a return to the pre-1967 lines, the idea of a Palestinian state in temporary borders has gained appeal with the Israelis.

Such a deal could give the Palestinians independence, while leaving the thorniest issues, such as the fate of Jerusalem and the status of millions of Palestinian refugees and their descendants, to later negotiations. The Palestinians reject any notion of a provisional agreement, fearing that a temporary arrangement that falls short of their dreams will become permanent.

Talks resumed in late July

after a nearly five-year break stemming largely from Israeli settlement construction. The Palestinians have objected to Israeli construction in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. The Palestinians say these settlements, now home to more than 500,000 Israelis, make it increasingly difficult to partition the land between two people.

After months of U.S. mediation, the Palestinians agreed to resume talks. Although Israel did not pledge to freeze settlement construction, U.S. officials have said they expect both sides to avoid provocative moves. Negotiators have been quietly meeting once or twice a week for the past month or so.

The Palestinian official said formal talks on borders have not yet started, and that negotiations have focused on security matters. He said the Israelis want to retain control of the West Bank's border with Jordan, keep early-warning stations on hilltops, and retain military bases near the Jordanian border.

"Israel is using the issue of security to take land," he said. "From the general discussions we had in the last couple of weeks, the Israelis have shown no intention to dismantle any settlement."

He said the current proposals indicated that Israel would seek to retain control over about 40 percent of the West Bank.

"They said, 'Let's discuss a state with provisional borders.' We said, 'Let's agree on a state based on the 1967 borders first, and then we can agree on having this state in phases.'"

In the previous round of talks, conducted in 2008 under then-Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Israel offered to withdraw from roughly 94 percent of the West Bank, and compensate the Palestinians with the equivalent of 6 percent through a "land swap" that would allow Israel to keep major settlements. □



The West Bank Jewish settlement of Elon Moreh near the northern West Bank city of Nablus, is seen. Israel has proposed leaving intact dozens of Jewish settlements and military bases in the West Bank as part of a package to establish a Palestinian state in provisional borders, a Palestinian official told The Associated Press on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013, in the first detailed glimpse at recently relaunched peace talks.

(AP Photo/Sebastian Scheiner)

Diminished Obama heads to Russia for G-20 meet

Continued from Front

"In accordance with applicable international law, the authorization of the use of force against a sovereign state can only be given by the Security Council of the United Nations," he said. "Any other reasons, or methods, to justify the use of force against an independent and sovereign state are unacceptable and cannot be qualified as anything other than aggression."

In lieu of the meeting he was to have held with Putin in Moscow, Obama arrived in Sweden on Wednesday and defended his position on the imperative to respond to a gross violation of the international ban on chemical weapons, even as his senior advisers continued to make the case

to a skeptical Congress at home. "I didn't set a red line," Obama said in Sweden, referring to his remark

the United States deeply in the war in Syria, which has now claimed more than 100,000 lives. "The world set

nal leadership for military action in Syria, and on Wednesday the Senate Foreign Relations Committee followed suit.

He can also claim credit for a steadily reviving U.S. economy, even as many formerly robust developing countries are experiencing weakness for the first time in years because of falling commodity prices and sagging currencies. Yet, even here, he faces challenges from countries that traditionally have been friends.

India, which also publicly opposed military action in Syria in a statement that refrained from assigning blame for the chemical attacks, has grown weary of U.S. economic policies as its own domestic woes have deepened, though Obama himself remains fairly popular. □



A car drives past the Constantine Palace, which will be the venue for a G20 meeting, in St. Petersburg, Russia on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013. U.S. President Barack Obama will seek to bolster international support for a strike against Syria during talks with world leaders this week at the Group of 20 summit. The G20 summit will run from Sept. 5-6.

(AP Photo/Dmitry Lovetsky)

last year, later described as off-the-cuff, that the use of such weapons would cause him to rethink his evident reluctance to involve

a red line." Obama this week picked up support, albeit tepid in many cases, from the Republican congressio-

US Senate panel votes to authorize force in Syria

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's request for speedy congressional backing of a military strike in Syria advanced in the Senate on Wednesday, hours after the president left open the possibility he would order retaliation for a deadly chemical weapons attack even if Congress withheld its approval. A resolution backing the use of force against President Bashar Assad's government cleared the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a 10-7 vote after it was stiffened at the last minute to include a pledge of support for "decisive changes to the present military balance of power" in Syria's civil war. It would rule out U.S. combat operations on the ground. The measure is expected to reach the Senate floor next week, although the timetable for a vote is uncertain.

The support seen in the Senate will be harder to find in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, which is also reviewing Obama's request, though its timetable is even less certain.

The Obama administration blames a chemical weapons attack that took place on Aug. 21 on Assad's government and says more than 1,400 civilians died, including at least 400 children.

Other casualty estimates are lower, and the Syrian government denies responsibility, contending rebels fighting to topple Assad were to blame.

The Senate panel's vote marked the first formal response in Congress, four days after Obama unexpectedly put off an anticipated cruise missile strike against Syria and instead asked lawmakers to unite behind such a plan.

Obama was in Sweden after a day of diplomacy when the vote occurred. White House press secretary Jay Carney praised the Senate committee for backing Obama's call for a strike, saying the measure would uphold U.S. national security interests.

At a news conference earlier, Obama said, "I always preserve the right and responsibility to act on behalf of America's national security." In a challenge to lawmakers back home,

"red line."

In Washington, Secretary of State John Kerry and other top administration officials made the case for action at the first House hearing on Obama's request for

Obama did not have a "compelling" enough case to push for a U.S. military response.

As for the most recent chemical weapons attack, Kerry declared that "only

- and the Assad regime did do it."

Asked about international support for Obama's threatened military strike, Kerry said the Arab League has offered to pay the cost



Secretary of State John Kerry confers with U.S. Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford, right, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013, during a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on President Barack Obama's request for congressional authorization for military intervention in Syria, a response to last month's alleged sarin gas attack in the Syrian civil war. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel sits at left. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

he said Congress' credibility was on the line, not his own, despite saying a year ago that the use of chemical weapons would cross a

congressional backing.

Kerry said Assad had used chemical weapons 11 times, including once last spring. At that time, he said,

the most willful desire to avoid reality can assert that this did not occur as described or that the regime did not do it. It did happen

of any U.S. military action. He was not specific but said the offers have been "quite significant, very significant." □

Student killed, 3 are hurt at Texas high school

MANNY FERNANDEZ
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SPRING, Texas - A fight, possibly gang related, broke out at a suburban Houston high school Wednesday, leaving one student dead of stab wounds and three other students injured, the authorities said.

The confrontation unfolded shortly after 7 a.m., a few minutes before classes began at Spring High School, one of the largest high schools in Harris County. The 3,500-student campus, next to Interstate 45 about 20 miles north of downtown Houston, was locked down throughout the morning.

After the authorities determined that the school was secure, they kept students in classrooms to interview potential witnesses and planned to release them to their parents in the afternoon.

Adrian Garcia, the Harris County sheriff, said the confrontation might have been gang-related, and investigators were questioning three people. He said that no arrests had been made, but that all of the people investigators were interested in were in custody.

The victims and those being questioned were students

at the campus, which started its school year last week.

The student who was killed was a 17-year-old male junior, the authorities and parents of students at the school said.

The weapon he was stabbed with has not been recovered. Two of the victims received minor injuries; the condition of the other was not immediately known.

"Every parent sends their child to school believing that school should be one of the safe-haven places, a place where they can send them and receive them back at the end of the

day," said Ralph H. Draper, the superintendent of the Spring Independent School District.

"It's what I lose sleep over. In my nearly 30-year career, this is the one thing that you pray never to experience." The stabbing follows two other recent violent episodes at a nearby community college.

In January, a dispute between two students led to gunfire at Lone Star College's North Harris campus, a few miles south of Spring High School.

Four people were sent to hospitals, and the campus was evacuated. □

VA to provide spousal benefits to gays, administration says

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WASHINGTON - The Obama administration on Wednesday escalated its effort to dismantle federal barriers to same-sex marriages, announcing that the Department of Veterans Affairs would immediately begin providing spousal benefits to gay men and lesbians despite a federal statute

that limits such benefits to veterans' spouses who are "of the opposite sex." In letters to congressional leaders, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. said that President Barack Obama had directed the executive branch to stop obeying the statute because it had decided that it was unconstitutional in light of

a Supreme Court ruling in June that struck down a similar law, a part of the Defense of Marriage Act. "Decisions by the Executive not to enforce federal laws are appropriately rare," Holder wrote. "Nevertheless, for the reasons described below, the unique circumstances presented here warrant nonenforce-



Attorney General Eric Holder, left, hands over credentials to newly sworn in FBI Director James Comey, right, at the Justice Department in Washington, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

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ment."

After the Supreme Court ruling, many agencies - the Pentagon and the Internal Revenue Service among them - have been rewriting their regulations to define marriage in gender-neutral terms. Last month the military announced that the same-sex spouses of active-duty personnel would receive similar family and spousal benefits, including housing allowances.

But the VA is in a different situation because Congress codified its definition of who was eligible for spousal benefits as a statute, and lawmakers have not changed it.

Eric K. Shinseki, the secretary of veterans affairs, said last month in a letter released

by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., that his agency was struggling with the question of providing benefits to surviving spouses because the statutory language defining "spouse" was slightly different from the law that the court had struck down. In the letter, Shinseki said that although the Department of Veterans Affairs could recognize a same-sex marriage that is valid under state law, "nonetheless, a same-sex spouse whose marriage to a veteran was valid in the state where the parties resided at the time they entered the marriage would not meet the definition of 'spouse'" under the federal statute for the purpose of veterans benefits. □

Panel rules for Conoco over Venezuela oil case

he Associated Press

Venezuela failed to fairly compensate ConocoPhillips for its seizure of three crude oil projects in 2007, according to a ruling from a World Bank arbitration panel.

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes in Washington concluded in a ruling issued Tuesday that Venezuela "breached its obligation to negotiate in good faith."

The panel has not yet determined what Venezuela owes ConocoPhillips. Conoco invested in three Venezuela oil exploration and production projects

under a framework established by the country in the early 1990s to encourage development, the company said in a statement. The projects were expropriated in 2007, and Conoco soon initiated arbitration before the ICSID.

Conoco's general counsel Janet Langford Kelly said in a statement that the company welcomes the decision. "This ruling sends a clear message," she said. Venezuelan Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez disagreed. "We reject this ruling that we did not negotiate on good faith," Ramirez said, speaking on state television Wednesday. □

US man who held 3 women captive kills himself

ANDREW HUGGINS

AP Legal Affairs Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

The man who kidnapped three young women and repeatedly raped them in his Ohio home for nearly a decade hanged himself in

a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. He had used a bedsheet.

Castro had been in protective custody because of the notoriety of his case, meaning he was checked every 30 minutes, but he

mental health treatment and the circumstances surrounding his suicide. He said the state police were also investigating.

No one answered the door Wednesday morning at the home of Castro's mother

and brother.

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Tim McGinty said in a statement Wednesday: "This man couldn't take, for even a month, a small portion of what he had dished out for more than a decade."

Through a spokeswoman, the three women declined to comment. "I'm not a monster. I'm sick," he said. The three women disappeared separately between 2002 and 2004, when they were 14, 16 and 20 years old. They escaped from Castro's home May 6, when Amanda Berry, one of the women, broke part of a door and yelled to neighbors for help.

The two other women were so scared of Castro that they held back even as police officers began to swarm the house. But quickly they realized they were free.

"You saved us! You saved us!" Michelle Knight told an officer as she leaped into his arms.

Castro was arrested that evening. He had fathered a child with Berry while she

was in captivity; that girl was 6 years old when freed. A judge rejected Castro's request to have visiting rights with his daughter.

Investigators said the women had been bound with chains, repeatedly raped and deprived of food and bathroom facilities. Knight told investigators she was beaten and starved several times to force her to miscarry. Berry was forced to give birth in a plastic kiddie pool.

Castro's attorneys had tried unsuccessfully to have a psychological examination of him done at the jail before he was turned over to state authorities following his conviction, his attorney, Jaye Schlachet, told The Associated Press early Wednesday. Schlachet said he could not immediately comment further.

In an interview last month after Castro's conviction, his attorneys said their client clearly fit the profile of sociopathic disorder and that they hoped researchers would study him for clues that could be used to stop other predators. □



In this photo, Ariel Castro appears in Cleveland Municipal court in Cleveland on charges of kidnapping and rape after three missing women escaped his home three days before. Castro, 53, serving a life sentence for the kidnapping and rape of Amanda Berry, Gina DeJesus and Michelle Knight, was found hanging in his cell, Tuesday night, Sept. 3, 2013, at the Correctional Reception Center in Orient, Ohio.

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

his cell, prison officials said Wednesday.

Ariel Castro, 53, last month was sentenced to life in prison plus 1,000 years after his guilty plea in one of the most sensational criminal cases in recent U.S. history. The public was startled by his apparent double life, with his reputation as a good-natured musician who even attended a vigil for one of the missing women.

Castro was found Tuesday night, said JoEllen Smith, Department of Rehabilitation and Correction spokeswoman. Prison medical staff performed CPR before he was transported to

was not on suicide watch, Smith said. She said suicide watch entails constant observation. While in jail before his conviction, Castro was taken off suicide watch in June after authorities determined he was not a risk.

An autopsy showed the death was a suicide, said Dr. Jan Gorniak, a coroner. She said she couldn't comment on the circumstances in which Castro was found. The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio asked the prison system to conduct a full investigation.

State Prison Director Gary Mohr ordered a review of Castro's medical and



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Some dread prospect of UAW foothold in South

ERIK SCHELZIG
Associated Press
CHATTANOOGA, Tennessee (AP) — The prospect of the United Auto Workers gaining a new foothold at Volkswagen's plant in Tennessee worries some Southern Republicans, who say laws banning mandatory union membership have helped lure foreign automakers. But Volkswagen faces pressure from labor interests

It's an argument that many U.S. Southern politicians have made, fearing that union representation would deter businesses — and badly needed jobs — from coming to their respective states. "We have heard from other folks that we're recruiting that that would be dampen their enthusiasm with Tennessee," Haslam said. Volkswagen has declined to comment on about re-

unionized plants operated by foreign-based firms in the South but has failed so far to make inroads. The companies have fended off the union by offering competitive wages and benefits. German law gives labor representatives half the seats on the Volkswagen's supervisory board, where some members have raised concerns about the Chattanooga plant being

"Some people will see this as unions getting a foot in the door and asking for more," he said. "But some within the labor movement would say we've got the wrong foot in the wrong door, and we should be trying for collective bargaining and nothing more." While a decision on whether to organize is up to the plant's workers — and even then it's not clear if there is much interest among the rank and file — Volkswagen has sought advice from politicians like Republican U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, who played a large role in persuading VW to build the plant in the city where he was once mayor. A vocal opponent of the UAW, he has feuded publicly with the union since pushing for wage and benefit concessions for union workers as part of the government bailout of automakers in 2009. Corker maintains that his role in the discussions helped the auto industry emerge from the economic crisis in stronger shape. He said he urged Volkswagen to discourage workers from choosing the UAW to represent them, and argued that potential investors in Tennessee have already been scared off by the possibility of the union gaining wider influence. Other German automakers like BMW, which has a plant in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and Daimler, which builds Mercedes vehicles in Vance, Alabama, have a corporate structure similar to Volkswagen's and could face some of the same internal labor pressures. Alabama's Republican Gov. Robert Bentley recently said a union at the Mercedes plant would be counterproductive. □

Delta orders 40 new Airbus jets; US plants ready

JOSHUA FREED
AP Airlines Writer
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Delta Air Lines said on Wednesday that it will buy 40 more Airbus planes, once again grabbing jets that may have been under-appreciated by other airlines. Delta said it signed a firm order for 30 Airbus A321s, which tend to be used on domestic flights, and 10 A330s, a larger plane used for international flights. Delta already has 158 planes from those two families of jets by way of its 2008 purchase of Northwest Airlines. The deal would be worth some \$5.6 billion at list prices, although discounts are common. Both of the Airbus types ordered by Delta are widely-used and well-thought-of. But demand is slowing. Delta is buying a version of the A321 that is being phased out in favor of a "new engine option" that Airbus plans to begin delivering in 2015. The new version is more fuel-efficient and has been getting the bulk of new orders. But the old version that Delta is buying costs \$10 million less per plane. For the A330, Airbus had booked just 11 orders through the end of July, while delivering 57 of the passenger version of that plane. As of April it had orders for another 280 of those jets, but it has been building them faster than new orders are coming in. Delta CEO Richard Anderson called the Airbus deal "another opportunistic fleet transaction for Delta in which we acquire economically efficient, proven-technology aircraft." The new-plane smell is rare at Delta. □



Employees at the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tenn., work on the assembly of a Passat sedan. Efforts by the United Auto Worker to unionize the plant have raised concerns among southern Republicans, who worry that the move would hurt the region's ability to lure foreign automakers in the future.
(AP Photo/Erik Schelzig)

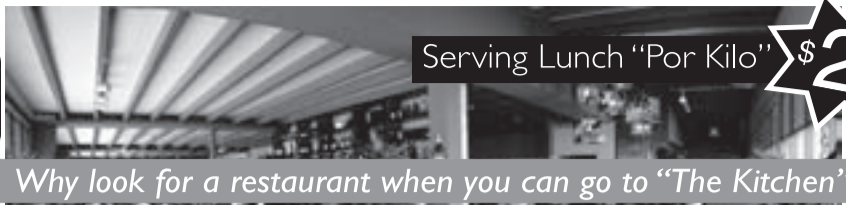
on its supervisory board to grant workers a stronger voice at the plant. And Handelsblatt, a German business newspaper, reported Monday that UAW President Bob King and five other officials discussed the Tennessee plant with the company's employee relations chief last week at VW's headquarters in Wolfsburg. Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam warned Tuesday his state's prospects could suffer if the UAW succeeds in representing workers at Volkswagen's lone U.S. assembly plant in Chattanooga.

ports that the company is meeting with the UAW. But Jonathan Browning, Volkswagen Group of America's president and CEO, said Wednesday that labor questions will be left to workers at the plant. "It may or may not result in third party representation," he told analysts, according to a spokesman. "Ultimately (it's) up to the employees. That hasn't changed." The UAW, faced with shrinking employment rolls at General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, has repeatedly said it's going to redouble its efforts at non-

alone among the company's large factories without formal labor representation. That has led some to look toward creating a German-style works council, where elected labor representatives are given a voice in plant management. Gary Chaison, a professor of labor relations at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, said it would take "tremendous flexibility" for the UAW to agree to a works council that falls short of traditional collective bargaining.

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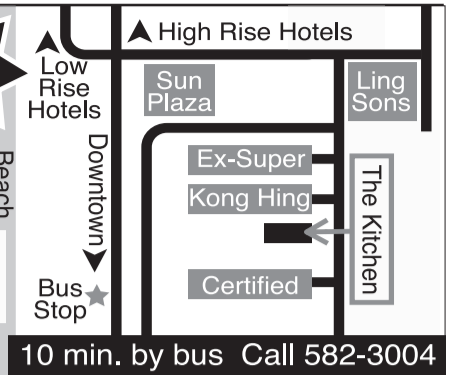


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American global competitiveness rising once again

JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The United States' competitiveness among global economies is rising again after four years of decline, though northern European countries continue to dominate the rankings published annually by the World Economic Forum.

In its latest survey, released Wednesday, the Forum ranked the U.S. — the world's largest economy — in fifth place for overall competitiveness, up from seventh last year. The U.S. turnaround reflects "a perceived improvement in the country's financial market as well as greater confidence in its public institutions," the report concluded. The Forum, which hosts the annual gathering of global business and political leaders in the Swiss ski resort of Davos every winter, ranks a country's competitiveness according to factors such as the quality of its infrastructure and its ability to foster innovation. Six European countries dominated the top 10: Switzerland, Finland, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. The remaining three slots were Asian: Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan. The most competitive economies, the Forum said, were Switzerland, No. 1, followed by Singapore, then Finland, all three unchanged in their rank from last year. Germany moved up to fourth place, from sixth last year, reflecting high-quality infrastructure, an efficient goods market and a high capacity for innovation.

Hong Kong moved up to seventh and Japan advanced to ninth. □

US Financial Front:

American trade deficit widens to \$39.1 B in July

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit widened in July from a four-year low in June. American consumers bought more foreign cars and other imported goods, while U.S. com-

panies exported fewer long-lasting manufactured goods. The rise in imports points to resilient consumer spending, which drives 70 percent of economic activity. The Commerce Department said Wednesday that the trade gap rose 13 percent to \$39.1 billion. That's up from June's deficit of \$34.5 billion, which was the smallest since late 2009. Imports increased 1.6 percent to \$228.6 billion, lifted by more shipments of oil, autos and consumer goods. Exports slipped 0.6

percent to \$189.4 billion. Companies shipped fewer capital goods, such as civilian aircraft and industrial engines. A wider trade gap can slow economic growth because it means that U.S. consumers and businesses are spending more on for-

ign goods than U.S. companies are earning from overseas sales. Still, the decline follows a steep drop in June. And economists noted that trade is running at roughly the same pace as the previous quarter. Many were

expected trade would be "broadly neutral" in terms of overall economic growth in the second half of this year, not subtracting from growth or adding to it. Gregory Daco, director of U.S. economics for IHS Global Insight, said the rise in imports reflects stronger consumer and business demand. Those could be encouraging signs for economic growth.

Most economists expect the economy will grow at an annual rate between 2 percent and 2.5 percent in the second half of this year. Many say consumers will increase spending as the impact of higher taxes starts to fade.

In July, the deficit with China jumped to an all-time high of \$30.1 billion and is slightly ahead of last year's record pace. That could increase pressure on the Obama administration to take a harder line on trade issues with China. American manufacturers contend China manipulates its currency and engages in other unfair practices to gain trade advantages over U.S. companies.

Europe's weak economy also is weighing on U.S. exports. □



A container ship moves through Charleston Harbor to the South Carolina State Ports Authority's Wando Terminal in Mount Pleasant, S.C. The government reported the U.S. trade deficit widened for July, on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013. (AP Photo/Bruce Smith)

panies exported fewer long-lasting manufactured goods. The rise in imports points to resilient consumer spending, which drives 70 percent of economic activity. The Commerce Department said Wednesday that the trade gap rose

percent to \$189.4 billion. Companies shipped fewer capital goods, such as civilian aircraft and industrial engines. A wider trade gap can slow economic growth because it means that U.S. consumers and businesses are spending more on for-

also encouraged by the increase in imports of consumer products. That follows a weak government report last week on consumer spending in July.

Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said that he

Fed survey finds US economy growing moderately

M. CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Economic growth held steady across the United States from July through late August, as Americans bought more cars and homes and auto factories added workers. A Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday showed that all 12 of the Fed's regional banking districts reported modest to moderate growth.

That's roughly in line with the Fed's previous survey of those districts from late May through early July.

Attractive financing options helped boost demand for new cars and trucks in most districts, with many reporting robust sales. The survey, known as the beige book, said that job growth was steady and that hiring in manufacturing improved modestly, especially at auto and au-

to-parts factories. But the Kansas City and San Francisco districts said federal spending cuts had caused production cutbacks at some defense plants.

The beige book is based on anecdotal reports from businesses gathered by the Fed's regional banks. The information was gathered for the Fed's next meeting on Sept. 17-18.

The overall economy grew at an annual rate of 2.5

percent in the April-June quarter. Many analysts believe that growth in the July-September quarter will be around 2 percent to 2.5 percent.

Some economists believe the economy is strong enough for the Fed to begin slowing its bond purchases at the September meeting. Others say the Fed may hold off at that meeting because they want to see more data. □

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AP Interview:

Russia's Putin warns West on Syria action

J. DANISZEWSKI
LYNN BERRY
V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press
NOVO-OGARYOVO, Russia (AP) — President Vladimir Putin warned the West against taking one-sided

the only one he granted prior to the summit of G-20 nations in St. Petersburg, which opens Thursday. The summit was supposed to concentrate on the global economy but now looks likely to be dominated by

problems." The Russian leader, a year into his third term as president, appeared to go out of his way to be conciliatory amid a growing chill in U.S.-Russian relations. The countries have sparred

idea that the United States and Russia are going to continue to have common interests, even as we have some very profound differences on some other issues," he said, noting that those differences include Syria. Putin said it was "ludicrous" that the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad — a staunch ally of Russia — would use chemical weapons at a time when it was holding sway against the rebels. "From our viewpoint, it seems absolutely absurd that the armed forces — the regular armed forces, which are on the offensive today and in some areas have encircled the so-called rebels and are finishing them off — that in these conditions they would start using forbidden chemical weapons while realizing quite well that it could serve as a pretext for applying sanctions against them, including the use of force," he said.

The Obama administration says 1,429 people died in the Aug. 21 attack in a Damascus suburb. Casualty estimates by other groups are far lower, and Assad's government blames the episode on rebels trying to overthrow him. A U.N. inspection team is awaiting lab results on tissue and soil samples it collected while in Syria before completing a report. Obama expressed frustration at Russia's position, saying: "It has been very difficult to get Russia, working through the Security Council, to acknowledge some of the terrible behavior of the Assad regime." Putin, however, said the U.S. has failed to make its case through the proper channels. "If there is evidence that chemical weapons

have been used, and used specifically by the regular army, this evidence should be submitted to the U.N. Security Council," said Putin, a former officer in the Soviet KGB. "And it ought to be convincing. It shouldn't be based on some rumors and information obtained by intelligence agencies through some kind of eavesdropping, some conversations and things like that." He noted that even in the U.S., "there are experts who believe that the evidence presented by the administration doesn't look convincing, and they don't exclude the possibility that the opposition conducted a premeditated, provocative action trying to give their sponsors a pretext for military intervention." He compared the evidence presented by Washington to false data used by the Bush administration about weapons of mass destruction to justify the 2003 invasion of Iraq. "All these arguments turned out to be untenable, but they were used to launch a military action, which many in the U.S. called a mistake. Did we forget about that?" Putin said. He said he "doesn't exclude" backing the use of force against Syria at the United Nations if there is objective evidence proving that Assad's regime used chemical weapons against its people. But he strongly warned Washington against launching military action without U.N. approval, saying it would represent an aggression. Russia can veto resolutions at the U.N. Security Council and has protected Syria from punitive actions there before. □



Russian President Vladimir Putin, left, speaks to John Daniszewski, the Associated Press's Senior Managing Editor for International News, as he signs autographs for him after an AP interview at Putin's Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013. Putin sought to downplay the current chill in the U.S.-Russian relations and said that the two countries need to cooperate on a range of issues in the interests of global stability.

(AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

action in Syria but also said Russia "doesn't exclude" supporting a U.N. resolution on punitive military strikes if it is proved that Damascus used poison gas on its own people. In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press and Russia's state Channel 1 television, Putin said Moscow has provided some components of the S-300 air defense missile system to Syria but has frozen further shipments. He suggested that Russia may sell the potent missile systems elsewhere if Western nations attack Syria without U.N. Security Council backing. The interview late Tuesday night at Putin's country residence outside the Russian capital was

the international crisis over allegations that the Syrian government used chemical weapons in the country's civil war. Putin said he felt sorry that President Barack Obama canceled a one-on-one meeting in Moscow that was supposed to have happened before the summit. But he expressed hope that the two would have serious discussions about Syria and other issues in St. Petersburg. "We work, we argue about some issues. We are human. Sometimes one of us gets vexed. But I would like to repeat once again that global mutual interests form a good basis for finding a joint solution to our

over Syria, the Edward Snowden affair, Russia's treatment of its opposition and the diminishing scope in Russia for civil society groups that receive funding from the West. And Putin denied that Russia has anti-gay policies, despite a law banning gay propaganda that has caused concern about the country's role as host of the Winter Olympics in February. Obama, speaking Wednesday during a trip to Sweden that replaced his Moscow plans, said relations with Russia have "hit a wall," but also expressed confidence that the two can work together on some issues. "I have not written off the

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Sweden:

Obama defends NSA surveillance programs anew

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

STOCKHOLM (AP) — President Barack Obama on Wednesday defended anew the United States' controversial surveillance programs, trying to reassure Europeans that the National Security Agency's spying apparatus acts in limited fashion to root out threats — even though recently revealed programs show a more widespread information-gathering effort.

"I can give assurances to the publics in Europe and around the world that we're not going around snooping at people's emails or listening to their phone calls," Obama said in response to a Swedish reporter's question during a news conference with Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt as he began a whirlwind, 24-hour trip to Sweden. "What we try to do is to target very specifically areas of concern."

Still, the president acknowledged that questions about privacy were likely to trail him in Europe — a continent that is protective of privacy rights — for some time. The issue also bubbled up during his trip to Germany in June, shortly after newspapers published reports based on documents leaked by former government contractor Edward Snowden.

Despite Obama's assertions of a more narrow-scope effort, the Snowden-leaked documents show the NSA collects and stores all kinds of data travel-

ing through the Internet, including emails, video chats and instant messages. Under one such classified program, known as Prism, the government can obtain secret court orders and gather mass amounts of data from major Internet companies such as Google, Apple, Microsoft and Facebook.

The documents also revealed how other NSA programs can tap into trans-Atlantic fiber optic lines so the agency can collect and store raw Internet traffic, including email messages sent overseas.

Those programs incensed Europeans. Germany's Social Democratic leader Peer Steinbrueck, the main election challenger to Chancellor Angela Merkel, said last month he would suspend negotiations with the U.S. over a free-trade agreement until Washington clarified details about the NSA's surveillance programs. Merkel also raised the issue with Obama when he visited Berlin earlier this year.



US President Barack Obama reacts during a press conference at Rosenbad, the seat of the Swedish government in Stockholm, Sweden, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013. US President Obama is on a visit to Sweden, ahead of the G20 summit, held in St. Petersburg, Russia.

(AP Photo/Jessica Gow)

The controversy surrounding the NSA surveillance programs is sure to follow the president when he attends the Group of 20 economic summit in Russia, the second stop on his three-day overseas trip. Russia's government granted Snowden temporary asylum, defying Obama's demands that the 30-year-old American be returned to the U.S. to face espionage charges.

Snowden is accused of

leaking highly secretive documents to The Guardian and Washington Post newspapers.

Russia's decision to allow Snowden into the country worsened the already tense ties between Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The U.S. president called off plans to hold one-on-one talks with Putin in Moscow before the G-20, choosing instead to add a last minute stop in Sweden to his

travel itinerary.

While the Swedish government bills itself as a champion of Internet freedom, officials said ahead of Obama's visit that they wouldn't raise the sensitive issue with the U.S. president. However, Internet freedom advocates protesting U.S. surveillance programs were among thousands of demonstrators who gathered in Stockholm for a peaceful protest against Obama's visit. □

Tunisian assembly speaker calls for reconciliation

Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — The speaker of Tunisia's elected assembly called Wednesday for the country's political parties to resolve their differences by the end of the week and finish the constitution. Mustapha Ben Jaafar gave an impassioned plea on television to end the political deadlock gripping this North African nation that was the birth-

place of the Arab Spring when it overthrew its dictator in 2011. It has been a rocky transition, however, and the assassination of two opposition politicians, the most recent in July, prompted some 60 deputies to pull out of the assembly, paralyzing its work. "I call on my colleagues that have withdrawn to take back their seats in the constituent assembly to finish

the constitution, which can be completed by Oct. 10," he said. "You were elected by the people, you don't have the right to withdraw in the last 100 meters."

The opposition insists that the government, led by the moderate Islamist Ennahda Party, has failed to govern the country properly and guarantee security and must resign immediately. Ennahda, which governs in

a coalition with two center-left parties, including that of Ben Jaafar, has offered to resign in four weeks once a constitution is complete and an interim government to manage new elections can be set up. Opposition parties rejected this offer, however, in a mediation being conducted by Tunisia's powerful labor union and business owners' association. □

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France: German leader visits site of WWII massacre

SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press
ORADOUR-SUR-GLANE, France (AP) — With hugs and hand-holding in a solemn tribute to those killed, the presidents of Germany and France on Wednesday visited a ghost town left behind after the largest massacre in Nazi-occupied France nearly seven decades ago.

The trip by German President Joachim Gauck, ac-

into barns and a church, blocked the doors, and set the town on fire. A total of 642 men, women and children died. The visit aimed to underscore French-German post-war reconciliation, and the importance of remembering Nazi atrocities that included the slaughter of millions of Jews, homosexuals, Gypsies and others during the Holocaust.

"We can today only under-

The battalion commander, Adolf Diekmann, apparently believed that the kidnappers were in or connected to Oradour-sur-Glane. Diekmann he was killed in action a short time later, and little more is known about his reasoning. Only six people survived. The two leaders were joined by one of them — 88-year-old Robert Hebras — who they assisted during a visit to the blown-out wreckage



France's President Francois Hollande, left, and German President Joachim Gauck, right, comfort Robert Hebras, 88, one of the last survivors of the World War II Oradour-sur-Glane's massacre, as they visit the ruins of the church of Oradour-sur-Glane, southwestern France, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013.

(AP Photo/Phillipe Wojazer)

companied by France's Francois Hollande, to the southwestern French town of Oradour-sur-Glane was the first by a serving German leader.

The town is today a phantom village, with burned-out cars and abandoned buildings left as testimony to its history.

On June 10, 1944 — four days after the Allied D-Day landings in Normandy — an SS armored division herded hundreds of civilians

stand with difficulty how 'totally normal men' became unscrupulous murderers," Gauck said in prepared remarks in a speech at a memorial ceremony. "And it happened here in Oradour, in the middle of Europe, and so many other places."

The killings were believed to have been ordered by a battalion commander in retaliation for the kidnapping of a German soldier by the French Resistance.

of the church, noting the remains of a charred baby carriage inside.

Hebras' voice cracked with emotion as he explained what happened.

But even now, the fallout from the massacre lives on: Six men from the fanatical SS "Das Reich" division that was responsible for the massacre have been under investigation in Germany for almost two years on possible charges of murder or accessory to murder. □

Vatican abruptly ousts its Dominican Republic envoy

EZEQUIEL LOPEZ
NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Authorities in the Dominican Republic will look into allegations of child sex abuse against the papal envoy to the Caribbean country following his abrupt removal from his post by the Vatican, the attorney general said Wednesday. Attorney General Francisco Dominguez Brito was careful to note that his office is aware only of rumors about the papal nuncio, Archbishop Josef Wesolowski, and has not received any accusations.

A Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, confirmed that Wesolowski had been removed from his post and that the church was conducting an investigation of him. He declined to provide any details about the accusations against the Polish-born prelate.

A nuncio is the pope's ambassador to a country and such an abrupt removal is rare.

Dominguez told reporters at a news conference that the investigation was in its initial stages and largely in response to media reports of allegations of sexual misconduct by Wesolowski as well as a friend and fellow priest. He said that he had designated a senior official to lead the investigation and coordinate with the Vatican.

"We will not allow anyone to use the Catholic Church or other religious institutions as a shield to commit illegal acts, especially against children," he said.

Wesolowski's sudden departure from the Dominican Republic in recent days has been the cause of feverish speculation in local media. Dominican television network NCDN, citing a statement from the director of a community group, reported that Wesolowski had slept in the same room as several altar boys at his beach house.

Shortly before his removal, several residents of the mountain town of Juncalito made allegations of sexual abuse against the Rev. Alberto Gil Wojciech, also a Polish priest and a friend of Wesolowski. The community leader, Pedro Espinal, told reporters that Wojciech took altar boys to the home of Wesolowski.

Wojciech was in Poland on vacation when the allegations surfaced and has not returned to the Dominican Republic.

The fact that the Vatican took such a significant move as to recall him and relieve Wesolowski of his duties indicated that the Vatican, at least, found there was enough to the rumors to warrant further investigation.

Pope Francis has instructed the Vatican to continue its tough line against sexually abusive priests, instructing the head of the Vatican office that handles abuse cases to act "decisively" to protect children, help victims and take the necessary measures to punish the guilty.

Francis in July also signed off on legislation criminalizing child sex abuse and other sexual crimes — laws that apply to Vatican employees as well as diplomatic staff.

The whereabouts of the 65-year-old Wesolowski were unknown. He was removed a few weeks ago, Lombardi said, though there was no official announcement of it in the Vatican's daily bulletin. □

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Venezuelans skeptical of Maduro's power sabotage claims

C. TOOTHAKER
FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelans expressed skepticism Wednesday on President Nicolas Maduro's claims that saboteurs caused a blackout that knocked out electricity in about 70 percent of the country, creating chaos in Caracas by interrupting subway service and snarling traffic.

For many, no explanation was necessary: Government neglect and incompetence are to blame for blackouts that have plagued Venezuela for years while rarely affecting the capital.

"I don't believe this tale about sabotage. We all know who is to blame," said Adriana Montoya, a housewife who said she was stuck for hours in traffic that jammed up as traffic lights went dark and subway service halted in Caracas, which lost power for five hours Tuesday.

Others complained of being stuck in trains in darkened subway tunnels before being evacuated to safety.

Blackouts are frequent in many of Venezuela's states, but few outages have affected Caracas in recent years.

Demands flooded Twitter calling for the resignation of Electrical Energy Minister Jesse Chacon, who vowed after being named to the post in April to revamp the power grid.

Chacon said the blackout stemmed from problems with transmission lines in the Bajo Caroni region, where 60 percent of Venezuela's power is generated by hydroelectric plants. Fourteen of 23 states lost power for much of Tuesday.

Maduro claimed sabotage

by "the extreme right-wing" was the cause, but did not present any evidence.

"We are facing a low-level conflict that seeks a high impact on society and poli-

tics," he said.

Even before Maduro's announcement, top opposition politician Leopoldo Lopez poked fun at officials who have claimed in the

past that thunderstorms or iguanas climbing on power lines caused blackouts.

"We already know what you are going to say: That it was an iguana, a light-

ning bolt or sabotage," he tweeted.

During the campaign leading up to an April presidential election that Maduro narrowly won, Venezuela was hit by numerous power outages. That prompted Maduro to accuse his political adversaries of resorting to sabotage as a means of hurting his chances for a victory.

The late President Hugo Chavez also blamed blackouts on sabotage, and like Maduro presented no evidence.

Chacon said authorities were investigating Tuesday's failure.

But Venezuelans held out little hope of getting the real story.

After a severe drought in 2010 that affected hydro-power generation, the government stopped publishing information about its electrical generation and distribution, said Jose Aguilar, an industry consultant who had worked with the government until then. □



A fan looks at his laptop as he waits for play to resume at a FIBA World Cup qualifying basketball game, during a power outage, in Caracas, Venezuela. Venezuelans expressed skepticism Wednesday on President Nicolas Maduro's claims that saboteurs caused a blackout that knocked out electricity in about 70 percent of the country.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

South African gold miners go on strike

C. TORCHIA
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP)

— A strike by tens of thousands of South African gold miners severely affected production in the struggling industry on Wednesday. There were no reports of violence and two mining companies reached a settlement with their workers. The strike started Tuesday evening.

The National Union of Mineworkers, which says it represents more than 80,000 miners in the gold sector, initially said it was demanding wage increases of up to 60 percent, about 10 times the offer that was made by gold mining companies.

The Chamber of Mines, which represents industry employers, said gold producers Pan African Resources and Village Main Reef had reached agreement with union leaders at two mines for wage increases of up to 8 percent. "That the producers and the unions can find one another in the interests of preserving these operations indicates our mutual desire to achieve an affordable and sustainable settlement," Elize Strydom, the chamber's chief negotiator, said in a statement. Lesiba Seshoka, spokesman for the National Union of Mineworkers, said the two settlements would not

have an impact on protests at other mines.

"We just said we would be willing to ease our demands, but it must be a double-digit increase that is worth the workers' while," the South African Press Association quoted Seshoka as saying.

Another gold-mining operation, Harmony, said the strike had heavily affected most of its operations but that it continued to engage with unions to reach a settlement.

"We are encouraged by the responsible and peaceful conduct of employees engaged in the strike, and urge all parties to uphold the law and all

agreements," said Graham Briggs, Harmony's chief executive officer.

President Jacob Zuma has urged both sides to reach agreements.

South Africa's mining industry has been hit by rising costs, diminishing production and labor unrest in recent years.

Some 46 people were killed during a six-week period of labor unrest over wages at Lonmin's platinum mine last year in Marikana, northwest of Johannesburg.

In one incident, police fired into striking miners near the Marikana mine on Aug. 16, killing 34 people and prompting an official inquiry that is still underway. □

EU unveils plan to regulate shadow banking

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union is pushing for a more stable financial system by clamping down on "shadow banking" — the high-finance sector that handles trillions of dollars but isn't bound by the same rules as banks.

The Commission, the EU's executive arm, said Wednesday that while investment vehicles such as money market funds or hedge funds are welcome because they provide extra sources of financing for companies and the economy, they can also pose serious threats to long-term financial stability.

Analysts and economists have argued that the lack of oversight in the shadow banking sector played a major role in the global financial crisis of 2008.

The global shadow banking sector was estimated to hold assets of about 51 trillion euros in 2011 (currently \$67 trillion), or almost a third of the total financial system and half the size of bank assets, according to the latest figures available from the Financial Stability Board. About a third of the sector's assets are held by firms in the U.S. and some 45 percent in the 28-country European Union.

The Commission's new set of rules targets the 1 trillion euro (\$1.3 trillion) money-market fund sector. The funds are an important refinancing tool for Europe's economy, currently holding almost a quarter of short-term debt issued by banks, governments or companies in Europe.

Big companies often use the funds, each of which can have a value of up to 50 billion euros (\$66 billion), to park billions of euros in cash there since they provide better returns than bank accounts while promising almost the same flexibility.

The new rules will require approval from the EU's member states and the

of their underlying assets, which makes them more vulnerable in times of turmoil. The Financial Stability Board has recommended prohibiting them, and the finance ministers of Germany and France, Europe's two biggest economies, appealed in a letter to Barnier this week to beef up his proposal and force those funds to change

sociated Press Friday.

The Commission proposal, however, only foresees forcing them to build up a small capital cushion, even though critics say that might still leave taxpayers exposed to footing the bill for new costly bailouts once things go wrong. Commissioner Michel Barnier said many of the funds resemble banks in their



German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble gestures at the chancellery in Berlin, Germany.
(AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

European Parliament. The Commission says its proposals are broadly in line with similar recommendations drawn up by the Financial Stability Board due to be presented to the leaders of the world's largest economies at the G-20 summit later this week in Russia.

However, the Commission stopped short of forbidding one category of those funds which guarantee investors a fixed payout despite the fluctuating prices

their business model.

"Their potential for systemic risk has been amply demonstrated during the 2007-2008 crisis, some (of them) experienced investor runs that necessitated large-scale support from sponsors or the public sector to maintain stability in the money market fund sector and the financial system as a whole," ministers Wolfgang Schaeuble and Pierre Moscovici said in the letter obtained by The As-

operations by taking deposits and lending money, but aren't subject to the tough oversight banks face. That's why they are considered to operate in the "shadow" of traditional finance.

"That means we need transparency, a sound oversight and that the risk taken on by the players of this banking sector be subject to precautionary measures," Barnier told reporters in Brussels. □

EU's 2nd quarter economic growth revised upward

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union's statistics office on Wednesday revised its second quarter economic growth estimate up slightly in the latest sign that the bloc has left a protracted recession behind.

The 27 countries' combined gross domestic product grew 0.4 percent in the second quarter compared with the previous three-month period, when it shrank 0.1 percent, Eurostat said. The agency, which had last month estimated growth of 0.3 percent, said the revision was due to more complete data from several member states, with household spending underpinning the economic momentum in many countries. Eurostat left unrevised its 0.3 percent growth estimate for the 17 countries sharing the euro currency. Compared with a year earlier, seasonally adjusted GDP was down by 0.5 percent in the euro-zone and remained stable for the EU, revised up from estimated drops of 0.7 percent and 0.2 percent. The revision came amid a string of recent positive data — from increased business optimism to higher manufacturing output and retail sales — that point to a steady increase in the bloc's economic activity.

"The recent sharp rise in consumer confidence suggests that spending growth is likely to pick up further in the coming quarters," Capital Economics analysts wrote in a research note to clients. They expect a further expansion of the economy in the third quarter, even though they warned "that the continued weakness of the labor market is likely to limit the pace of the consumer recovery." Europe's unemployment rate remains stubbornly high at 12.1 percent. In some countries hardest-hit by Europe's debt crisis, such as Greece and Spain, more than one in four people don't have a job. Analysts say more dynamic growth will be needed to spur investment and job creation there. □

Turkmenistan starts pumping gas from vast field

A. VERSHININ
Associated Press

YOLOTAN, Turkmenistan (AP) — Turkmenistan began pumping natural gas Wednesday from a vast field near the Afghan border that will help it more than double exports to China in the coming years. Chinese President Xi Jinping joined Turkmenistan's president, Gurbanguli Berdimukham-

edov, for the start of gas production at the South Yolotan field in the former Soviet republic in Central Asia.

Independent British auditor Gaffney, Cline & Associates estimates that South Yolotan may hold up to 21.2 trillion cubic meters (750 trillion cubic feet) of gas, potentially making it the second-largest reserve of gas in

the world after the South Pars field that is shared between Iran and Qatar. Turkmenistan is set to boost its gas exports to China to 65 billion cubic meters per year by 2020, up from 25 billion cubic meters this year, according to Turkmen energy officials. The initial three production facilities, expected to produce a total of 30 billion cubic me-

ters of gas annually, were built in a barren desert by China's CNPC, South Korea's LG International Corp. and Hyundai Engineering, and Petrofac International of the United Arab Emirates. Gas from South Yolotan also is expected eventually to help supply a planned pipeline that would pass through Afghanistan and Pakistan and end up in India. □



On Aruba:

Implementation Of UNESCO Treaty On Cultural Heritage

ORANJESTAD - In 2012, the Kingdom of The Netherlands ratified the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. The Convention is about oral traditions and expressions, including language as a vehicle of the intangible cultural heritage, performing arts, social practices, rituals and

festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe and traditional craftsmanship. It entered into force in the Kingdom of the Netherlands in August 2012. The Aruban government put the Fundacion Herencia Cultural Inmaterial in charge of the implementation of the convention in Aruba. The foundation

started its preparatory activities mid 2013. Last year the minister of Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, received a report from a special committee on the implementation of the UNESCO-treaty to protect Intangible cultural heritage on Aruba. A symposium on Intangible Cultural Heritage was organized in April for all the Dutch Ca-



Herencia Cultural Inmaterial
Inventario Nacional Aruba



ibbean islands. The report offers advice on protecting this heritage. Aruba is the first country in the Kingdom wanting to protect its Intangible cultural heritage through an international treaty.

The report led to the founding of Fundacion Herencia Cultural Inmaterial. On the board are Luc Alofs (president), Jimmy Oduber, Eric Mijts, Igmar Reyes y Minerva Geerman, Jontsje Tilma, Bernice Schulten and the coordinator is Gina Jie Sam Foek. The advisory board members are Ray Anne

Hernandez, Vilmio Wester, Ami Henriquez-Mendez, Gregory Richardson, Merl Gibbs and last but not least Maybelline Arends-Croes. Mrs. Ineke Strouken is the advisor from the Netherlands Centrum voor Volks-cultuur en Immaterieel Erfgoed.

The coordinator can be contacted on information about nomination for the national inventory at the national library of Aruba, phone 582 1580. The implementation of the Unesco treaty on Aruba can now begin. □

Dragstock slated to be big weekend for Team Aruba

UNION, S.C./ORANJESTAD - September 4, 2013: ADRL's Dragstock event has become legendary in its own right, and, as such, is the highlight of the year for many racers and fans. For the gang from Aruba, Dragstock is also 'home stop' on the tour, easily making this the biggest event of the season for the Aruba.com Extreme Pro Stock Team. Although much of the team hails from Aruba, their shop is based out of Union, S.C. - a short drive from Rockingham Dragway where Dragstock is held. Dragstock is a week-long event for Team Aruba, with area displays for associate sponsor Alltel Wireless in the days leading up to the event, testing on Thursday and the highly anticipated Battle for the Belts Shootout on Friday before Dragstock qualifying actually begins on Saturday. "This is probably the longest and busiest race of the entire 2013 ADRL Tour for us," told driver Trevor Eman. "We really enjoy the added festivities surrounding this event. Alltel

is a great sponsor and doing the displays gives us a chance to interact with our fans from Alltel, as well as spread the word about the upcoming event. "We're especially looking forward to participating in the Battle for the Belts. It's a huge privilege to qualify for such a prestigious event," Eman said of the Shootout that takes only the top eight in points from each category. "Our goal is obviously to make three consistent and quick runs and take home the Belt. However, we have come such a long way in our Pro Stock career that just being a contender in this event is rewarding. "After the Battle is over on Friday, we still have major work cut out for us on Saturday and Sunday. Although we're currently in fourth place in points, we still have an opportunity to win the Extreme Pro Stock Championship. Keeping ourselves in a position to do this will depend greatly on our performance this weekend. We have a good race car with good power; we can't thank our

chassis builder and engine builder enough. Our team is more than capable of getting the job done, so we are fully ready to do well this weekend." Being close to home has its advantages and for Eman and Team Aruba, this means added support: "Rockingham is always a nice facility to race at since we can consider it our home track. So besides it being a real busy week for us, it is also the race we have probably been looking forward to the most. We always have plenty of friends from the area around our shop in Union, S.C. that join us for this race, and thanks to direct flights from Aruba to Charlotte, this race is also the easiest travel distance for our Aruba friends and family. So it will be great to have plenty of moral support on our side both from Aruba and S.C. We're also happy to welcome Alltel representatives to Dragstock. It looks like we'll have full pits and plenty of support! Bottom line is, we are looking forward to a great weekend of racing surrounded

by great people." Watch Trevor and Team Aruba at the ADRL Dragstock X this weekend via ADRL.us Live Feed. Keep up with Team Aruba at www.facebook.com/teamarubaracing and on

Twitter @TeamArubaRacing. Find race results, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba! For more on your Aruba vacation visit www.Aruba.com. □

Marriott Managers embark on new careers at The Ritz Carlton Aruba!



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Marriott hosted a celebration to bid farewell to five of the managers: Altagracia Lampe, Jolitza Limonier, Shuraima Henriquez, David Coster and Hank Wientjes who are embarking on a new adventure with the Ritz Carlton Aruba. Altagracia Lampe accepted the job of Human Resource Manager, Shuraima Henriquez the position of Recreation and Activities Manager, David Coster as Restaurant Manager. Hank Wientjes was promoted to Assistant Front Office Manager and Jolitza Limonier was promoted to Finance Manager at the Ritz Carlton. Surrounded among their teams and colleagues, the five managers received congratulations and good luck wishes. Complex General Manager Tom Cal-

ame gave a speech to thank the team for their great support over the years and the best of luck as they move on to their next career step. Director of HR Barbara Bronswinkel and HR managers Jeslin and Terry expressed their gratitude to Altagracia, who worked at Aruba Marriott over 17 years. Director of Finance Pamela Heim shared some words about Jolitza, a great asset to the Accounting department over the years. Marriott Surf Club General Manager Joop Bangma thanked Shuraima and Hank for their dedication and work at the Marriott Aruba Vacation Club. David Coster unfortunately was not able to attend the farewell party. The Aruba Marriott team wishes their colleagues the best of luck as they embark the brand new Ritz Carlton resort in Aruba. □

Beauty On The Beach

Lucy Wisk

They are from New York. We wish them a pleasant stay here in Aruba!

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Aruba will co-host 2013 Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum

ORANJESTAD - Now in its fifth year, CREF has grown rapidly to become by far the largest annual gathering of senior stakeholders – amongst them many regional prime ministers and ministers – targeting vital energy diversification efforts in the Caribbean. CREF 2012, which took place in Puerto Rico, gathered over 400 delegates from 40 countries.

20% of Aruba's energy is already derived from renewable sources. In 2012, however, the Government of Aruba announced an ambitious partnership with Sir Richard Branson's Carbon War Room which will seek to propel Aruba to 100% renewables by 2020. The initiative calls for change not just in the way energy is generated on the island, but also how it is deployed - and conserved - across a number of key sectors, from transportation to tourism. According to Prime Minister

Eman, "The ambitious goals we have set for our energy supply reflect wider objectives to create long-term social resilience and economic independence. Hosting CREF 2013 will help open the door to international partners and investors who will play a vital role in our transition to a sustainable and energy independent economy."

CREF 2013 will take place over the course of three days and will feature a standalone "Green Aruba" event designed to provide clear insights into how the Aruban government's long-term energy policy translates into opportunities for investment.

Dr. Franklin Hoevertsz, Managing Director of Utili-



Prime Minister Mike Eman announces that Aruba will co-host the 2013 Caribbean Renewable Energy

ties Aruba, emphasizes the importance of this approach: "As a country, we are ready for the transition from traditional to 21st century energy economy. Now is the time to introduce world-class technology and capital to the broad array of opportunities that exist in Aruba. CREF – and

Green Aruba – will play a vital role in introducing Aruba to top-tier private sector investors and catalyzing the process of engagement and participation in our green island economy."

New Energy Events LLC, the New York-based organizer of the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum, saw in Aruba a compelling combination of world-class venue and an administration that was committed to change.

"Aruba has made great strides towards the diversification of its energy supply in recent years," explains Matthew Perks, CEO of New Energy Events. "To make the transition, however, from 20% renewables to 100% in seven years will require grit, commitment and investment. We are honored that Aruba

has identified us as a key partner in this process and firmly believe that CREF can play a key role in catalyzing investment in Aruba's new energy economy."

Jerry C. Butler, the conference chairman, underscored the significance of the conference not just for Aruba but for the region as a whole. "We have been talking about renewables for decades.

We have the resources. We know the capital is available. The technology is online. As a region, we now need to commit to policy, commit to investment, and commit to making the change in our approach to energy that is so urgently required."

CREF 2013 will take place at the Westin Resort & Casino, Aruba, from October 9-11. For more information please visit www.caribbeanenergyforum.com or www.greenaruba.org. □

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NFL making news in 2013 ahead of upcoming season

BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL never really shuts down.

It kept rolling long after the lights came back on after a 37-minute delay at the Superdome in New Orleans and the Baltimore Ravens squeezed out a Super Bowl title in February. It's rolling still, right into a new season that will kick off on Thursday when the Ravens visit Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos and end with (shiver!) an outdoor Super Bowl in New Jersey. In between, there were plenty of headlines:

New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez was arrested on murder charges; Broncos star linebacker Von Miller has been suspended for the first six games for a drugs violation; and HGH testing is getting closer but still isn't underway two years after the league and players agreed on the need for it.

Continued on Page 22



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) looks for a receiver as New York Giants defensive end Justin Traftou (69) closes in during the third quarter of an NFL preseason football game Thursday, Aug. 29, 2013, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press



Jordan Spieth reacts after his eagle on the 18th hole during the final round of the Deutsche Bank Championship golf tournament in Norton, Mass., Monday, Sept. 2, 2013.

Associated Press

20-year-old Jordan Spieth picked for Presidents Cup

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

Jordan Spieth started the season without status on any tour. He ends it by going to the Presidents Cup. Fred Couples used his captain's picks on the 20-year-old Spieth and Webb Simpson to fill out the 12-man American team. Spieth is the youngest American to play in the Presidents Cup. Couples chose Spieth over Jim Furyk and Dustin Johnson. Furyk had been on every American team since 1997.

"I'm just super stoked," Spieth said.

Nick Price used his picks on a pair of rookies — Brendon de Jonge of Zimbabwe and Marc Leishman of Australia — as the International team tries to win for only the second time. The matches are Oct. 3-6 at Muirfield Village in Dublin, Ohio.

Spieth was studying at Texas University a year ago when he decided to turn pro at the end of 2012, even though he failed to get out of the second stage of PGA Tour qualifying and was not a member of any tour. He played well enough to earn special temporary status on the

PGA Tour, won the John Deere Classic in July and lost in a playoff last month at the Wyndham Championship.

He is assured of being the first player since Tiger Woods in 1996 to start a season without status and reach the Tour Championship. Couples left out young players his last two times as captain — Dustin Johnson in 2009, Keegan Bradley in 2011, even though Bradley had won the PGA Championship for his second win as a rookie.

Continued on Page 20

Usain Bolt to retire after Rio Olympics

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

BRUSSELS (AP) — Usain Bolt plans to retire after the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Bolt said Wednesday he wants to win more gold in Rio, set another world record in the 200 meters next year, and perhaps win a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.

"So far, (it) is after the Olympics in Rio," Bolt said of his retirement plans. "I think if I am in great shape, I'll go there and do what I have to do. I think it will be a good time to retire, on top."

Winning another three golds in Moscow last month made him the most decorated athlete in world championship history with eight gold and two silvers. He has six gold medals from the Olympics.

"If I want to be among the greats of (Muhammad) Ali and Pele and all these guys

I have to continue dominating until I retire," Bolt said ahead of his final race this season in the 100 at Friday's Van Damme Memorial. Bolt won the 100, 200 and 4x100 relay at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and at last year's London Games. He won the same triple at the 2009 worlds before repeating that feat in Moscow last month.

At 27, Bolt has the experience to know that a lax season midway between Olympics can hurt him. In 2010, a soft entry into the year and subsequent injury cost him almost a full season.

"I kind of didn't do much in the offseason and then got injured and had to start from scratch. So this season, I will not make that mistake again," Bolt said.

Like 2010, next season has no major championships, but Bolt is forcing himself to

think of new goals for 2014. He already owns the 100 and 200 world records and shares the 4x100 with his Jamaican teammates. He acknowledges the 100 record of 9.58 seconds will be extremely tough to better, but he hopes to improve on the 19.19 he ran in the 200 in Berlin four years ago. "I have learned, I have mastered the art of running the turn," Bolt said of the 200. "So if I can stay injury free and be in good shape, then it is possible for me to definitely go after the world record."

As a Jamaican, Bolt can compete in the Commonwealth Games, too, something he has yet to do. Next year, the event will be held in Glasgow, Scotland.

"I have never been to Commonwealths and so it is always good to add to your collection of gold medals," Bolt said. □



Athlete Usain Bolt of Jamaica addresses the media at the Sheraton hotel in Brussels on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013. Bolt arrived in Brussels to participate in the Diamond League Memorial Van Damme Track and Field meeting on Friday.

Associated Press

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Bucs clinch first .500 season since 1992

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Pinch-hitter Travis Snider homered in the ninth inning to lift Pittsburgh to a 4-3 win over the Milwaukee Brewers on Tuesday night that clinched the Pirates' first non-losing record in 21 seasons. NL Capsules Snider drove a 2-2 pitch from Jim Henderson (3-5) over the wall in center for his second pinch-hit homer of the season. He also accomplished the feat against the Chicago Cubs on May 21.

It was victory No. 81 for Pittsburgh, ensuring it will not finish with a losing record for the first time since it went 96-66 in 1992. More importantly, it boosted the Pirates' lead in the NL Central to two games over St. Louis.

Vin Mazzaro (7-2) pitched two innings for the win and Mark Melancon got three outs for his 11th save, striking out Khris Davis with a runner on second to make it four straight wins for Pittsburgh at Miller Park for the first time since 2002. The Pirates lost 44 of 51 games in Milwaukee from 2007-2012.



Pittsburgh Pirates' Felix Pie (26), Marlon Byrd (2) and Andrew McCutchen celebrate their 4-3 win over the Milwaukee Brewers in a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

Jean Segura had two hits and Jonathan Lucroy drove in two runs for Milwaukee, which has lost five in a row.

REDS 1, CARDINALS 0

CINCINNATI (AP) — Speedy Billy Hamilton got his first major league steal and came around on Todd Frazier's double in the seventh

inning, sending Cincinnati to the victory.

Hamilton made his big league debut as a pinch runner for Ryan Ludwick, who led off the seventh with a single against Seth Maness (5-2).

After Maness threw to first three times, Hamilton took off and beat catcher Yadier Molina's off-target throw. The touted prospect scored easily on Frazier's hit and got congratulatory slaps in the dugout.

Homer Bailey (10-10) allowed only two hits in seven innings, retiring his last 14 batters. Aroldis Chapman got three outs for his 34th save in 39 chances, completing the two-hitter.

The Cardinals were shut out for the third time in their last six games.

DODGERS 7, ROCKIES 4

DENVER (AP) — Ricky Nolasco pitched six strong innings, Carl Crawford had three hits and the Dodgers earned their sixth consecutive win.

Crawford singled in a pair of runs in the second to

spark the offense in the absence of injured catalyst Yasiel Puig. The Cuban slugger was rested a day after he aggravated a right knee strain.

Nolasco (12-9) allowed two runs and five hits in improving to 7-1 with a 2.27 ERA in 11 starts since coming to Los Angeles on July 6 in a trade with Miami.

Nick Punto added four singles for the NL West-leading Dodgers.

Jhoulys Chacin (13-8) allowed four runs in seven innings in losing to the Dodgers for the first time in four starts this season.

NATIONALS 9, PHILLIES 6

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Wilson Ramos hit a three-run homer and Corey Brown also went deep to back Gio Gonzalez, leading Washington to the victory.

Still clinging to postseason hopes, the Nationals overcame a sloppy all-around effort that included three errors, four unearned runs and four wild pitches. They remained 7½ games behind Cincinnati for the second wild-card spot. □

Presidents Cup

Continued from Page 18

The captain said he had help from his team "and probably all of the United States" in taking Spieth.

Couples said not taking Bradley in 2011 "wore on me a little bit," especially after watching Bradley play well at the Ryder Cup a year later.

"I'm going with the young guy and our whole team is excited," Couples said. "We have a great team, but to pick Jordan I think was the right move."

By taking the rookie, Couples left Jim Furyk off an American team for the first time since the 1997 Ryder Cup, ending a streak of 15 straight teams. Couples said it was such a tough decision that he did not call Furyk, and left him a text message late Tuesday night. Furyk didn't mind the delivery — "All you're looking for is contact," he said — and while he was disap-

pointed, he said Couples was in a tough spot.

"Everyone is going to argue what the right call is," Furyk said. "He had so many good players ... he wasn't going to make a bad choice."

Couples also said he would consider Johnson, who hasn't won since the Tournament of Championship in January at Kapalua.

Simpson was inside the top 10 who qualified for most of the two-year process until the final hole, when Zach Johnson made a 25-foot birdie putt at the TPC Boston to move into the 10th spot by what amounted to \$5,715 in PGA Tour earnings. Couples had said Monday night he was leaning toward Simpson.

Furyk narrowly made the Presidents Cup last time and then went 5-0 at Royal Melbourne. He also is a past champion at the Me-



Webb Simpson reacts after missing a birdie putt on the eighth hole during the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill Country Club, Friday, Aug. 9, 2013, in Pittsford, N.Y.

Associated Press

morial, played at Muirfield Village.

"The whole thing was not fun," Couples said. "I know all the stats. But at the same time, Jordan deserves to be on the team and Webb Simpson is a class act, great player. As Nick Price says, you get

two picks and those are who we are going with."

Price, on the other hand, leaned on history at Muirfield Village in guiding his picks. He said Tim Clark does not have a long history playing the Memorial, and that de Jonge and Leishman were better suit-

ed for Muirfield Village.

"We can debate amongst the three guys from here until eternity as to what you think and who you feel would be best," Price said. "But I had to make the decision yesterday, and I really think that out of the three guys, Brendon and Marc would probably end up playing Muirfield better than Tim does."

The picks meant that Price will have six rookies on his team, though it's not like experience has helped the International side in the past. The Presidents Cup has become a lopsided event, with Americans holding a 7-1-1 advantage. They have won the last four times, and the last three matches have not been particularly close.

Besides, the Americans had six rookies a year ago and won handily in Melbourne. "It's going to be a tough job for us to win the cup, but I think we have got a really strong team right now," Price said. □

AL Capsules

Red Sox beat Tigers 2-1 as Lester edges Scherzer

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Jon Lester outdueled Max Scherzer and Boston beat Detroit 2-1 on Tuesday night, ending the Tigers right-hander's chance to become just the second pitcher to open a season with a 20-1 record. Lester (13-8) lowered his ERA to 1.71 in his past six starts. He allowed one earned run and eight hits with a season-high nine strikeouts and no walks. Scherzer (19-2), who won his first 13 decisions, lost for the first time since July 13 when Texas beat him 7-1. Roger Clemens is the only pitcher to start 20-1. He ended up 20-3 with the Yankees in 2001.

Boston scored on Will Middlebrooks' two-run single in the fifth. Detroit's Jose Iglesias doubled in a run in the second in the matchup of division leaders.

Koji Uehara pitched the ninth for his 17th save in 20 opportunities and extended his scoreless streak to 25 innings.

Miguel Cabrera, who missed three games with abdominal and groin problems, returned for Detroit and went 0 for 4.

Yankees 6, White Sox 4

NEW YORK (AP) — Eduardo Nunez's two-run double capped a five-run eighth inning for New York.

Pinch-hitter Curtis Granderson tied the score with an RBI single off reliever Donnie Veal and New York went on to win for the 12th time in 14 home games.

Alexei Ramirez hit a two-run triple and Alejandro De Aza homered for the last-place White Sox who dropped their fifth straight.

Alfonso Soriano's two-run single off Nate Jones (4-5) cut the deficit to 4-3.

Boone Logan (5-2) pitched a perfect eighth, and Mariano Rivera earned his 40th save.

Derek Jeter finished with two hits, giving him 3,315 to pass Eddie Collins (3,313) for ninth on the career list.

Indians 4, Orioles 3

CLEVELAND (AP) — Ubaldo Jimenez pitched six shutout innings while Yan Gomes and Asdrubal Cabrera drove in two runs apiece, and Cleveland survived a shaky ninth inning.

Jimenez (10-9) has allowed three earned runs or less in eight consecutive starts. The right-hander allowed four hits.

Gomes' two-run double was the key hit in Cleveland's sixth. Cabrera had sacrifices flies in the fourth and sixth.

Orioles starter Chris Tillman (15-5) allowed four runs in 5 1-3 innings. The right-hander has one win in his last six starts.

The Orioles got back in the game in the ninth against Indians closer Chris Perez, who pitched in a non-save situation.

Nate McLouth hit a three-run homer but Perez struck out Brian Roberts and Manny Machado before retiring Chris Davis, who leads the majors with 47 homers, on a ground ball.

Royals 4, Mariners 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Salvador Perez drove in Mike Moustakas with two outs in the eighth inning for Kansas City, which survived after blowing a three-run lead.

Billy Butler grounded into a double play against reliever Yoervis Medina (4-4) when Moustakas legged out a double to center in the eighth. Perez followed with a single to left, and Moustakas had just enough time for a headfirst slide ahead of Endy Chavez's throw to home.

Luke Hochevar (4-2) got two outs in the eighth to leave runners stranded on second and third, and Greg Holland pitched a perfect ninth for his 31st straight save and 38th on the year.

Perez homered and finished with three hits for the Royals, who have won three straight and eight of

their last 10. Alex Gordon also hit a solo shot and Butler drove in a run for Kansas City.

Kyle Seager hit a two-run shot for the Mariners, who have lost three straight.

Twins 9, Astros 6, 12 innings
HOUSTON (AP) — Clete Thomas scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the 12th inning and Darin Mastroianni added a two-run double for Minnesota.

Thomas reached on a fielder's choice and went to third on Josmil Pinto's double. Kevin Chapman (0-1) then uncorked a wild pitch with pinch-hitter Ryan Doumit at the plate.

Mastroianni provided a couple of insurance runs when he doubled with two outs as Minnesota recovered after Glen Perkins blew a save opportunity in the ninth.

Brian Dozier and Trevor Plouffe homered for Minnesota, which has won three straight.

Plouffe had four hits and Mastroianni went 3 for 6 with three RBIs.

Brandon Barnes had three hits and five RBIs for the Astros, including a tying three-run homer off Perkins with two outs in the ninth.

Caleb Thielbar (3-2) pitched two hitless innings for the win and Josh Roenicke finished for his first save.

Rays 7, Angels 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Matt Moore pitched into the sixth inning in his return from the disabled list, and Tampa Bay got home runs from Desmond Jennings and Yunel Escobar.

Moore (15-3) won his seventh straight decision, yielding an unearned run and four hits in 5 1-3 innings as the Rays snapped a five-game losing streak. The All-Star left-hander, who missed the entire month of August because of elbow soreness, won six straight starts before getting a no-decision on July 28 at Yankee Stadium. □



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Jon Lester delivers to the Detroit Tigers during the first inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013.

Associated Press

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JENNIFER ANISTON | JASON SUDEIKIS
WE'RE THE MILLERS
MON - THURS 4:35 | 7:00 | 8:30 | 9:30
FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 8:30 | 9:30 | 11:10 | 11:55
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 8:30 | 9:30 | 11:10 | 11:55
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NIAL HANAN | ZAYN MALIK
ONE DIRECTION THIS IS US: 3D
MON - THURS 4:30 | 6:45 | 9:00
FRI 4:30 | 6:45 | 9:00 | 11:15
SAT 2:15 | 4:30 | 6:45 | 9:00 | 11:15
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THE CONJURING
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
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NFL

Continued from Page 18

A rash of preseason injuries have prompted some players to question the NFL's player safety initiatives. Already gone for the season are tight ends Dennis Pitta of Baltimore (broken hip) and Dustin Keller of Miami (right knee), with more than a dozen others also sidelined.

"It's just weird how things have changed from the past," noted New York Jets tight end Konrad Reuland. "Before, diving at the knees was a dirty play. Now hitting up high is a dirty play. It's almost done a complete 180."

That might be understandable considering the emphasis Commissioner Roger Goodell is placing on player safety. Last week, the league made a \$765 million settlement with more than 4,500 former players who charged the NFL of concealing the long-term dangers of concussions and rushing injured players back onto the field.

Key rules changes for this season with player safety in mind will bar ball carriers from using the crown of the helmet to make contact with defenders, and

require players to wear knee and thigh pads. The uniform police will remove them from games if they don't have the full complement of equipment.

Meanwhile, fans can't wait to see if Robert Griffin III is fully recovered from his torn-up knee and can be even more dynamic as the Washington Redskins quarterback. Or whether Tim Tebow has a future in the NFL in New England. And how the Ravens will handle losing team leaders Ray Lewis and Ed Reed, while Joe Flacco tries to justify the huge contract he received as a Super Bowl-winning quarterback.

"The NFL always provides an element of surprise, and that is a part of the intrigue that makes it so popular," Pittsburgh Steelers general manager Kevin Colbert said. "It's hard to predict who can be the champions at this point, because it's a great unknown that changes as the year goes on. It's not always the top team over the season that wins, but the one able to perform the best when it means the most. And that element is always exciting



Former New England Patriot football player Aaron Hernandez, listens to proceedings in a court in Attleboro, Mass., Thursday, Aug. 22, 2013. Hernandez was indicted on first-degree murder and weapons charges in the death of a friend whose bullet-riddled body was found in an industrial park about a mile from the ex-player's home.

Associated Press

about an NFL season." Lots of points and big plays tend to excite fans the most, and the copycat NFL could feature even more up-tempo offenses now that Chip Kelly has brought his go-go-go attack from the University of Oregon to the Philadelphia Eagles. If it works for one team — as it has for the high-powered, fast-draw offenses in New England, New Orleans, San

Francisco and Green Bay, for example — then just about everyone tries it. Kelly downplays the speed of his offense, but throughout the league, look for no-huddles, quick snaps out of a variety of formations, and lots of passing. Those fast-paced offenses from Foxborough to Philly, Louisiana to Lambeau Field won't have to deal with likely Hall of Famers

Lewis and Brian Urlacher in the middle of the field. They retired, along with NFL champions Matt Birk, Jeff Saturday and Donald Driver.

Replacing veterans everywhere are lots of rookies — a good crop but nowhere near the quarterbacking caliber of last year's trio of RG3, Andrew Luck and Russell Wilson.

The coaching carousel spun frantically, with one-quarter of those jobs changing. Kelly's predecessor Andy Reid, fired following 14 seasons in Philadelphia, immediately landed as coach of the Kansas City Chiefs, a strong candidate for most improved team with quarterback Alex Smith acquired from San Francisco.

The 49ers, who came alive after the Superdome blackout and nearly stole the title from Baltimore, are among the favorites to reach the Meadowlands next February for the first outdoor Super Bowl at a cold-weather site.

Also a hot choice is Denver, which added prolific Wes Welker to its receiving corps for Manning — a blow to major rival New England. □



Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland, celebrates after winning the 38.8 kilometer (24-mile) time trial, Tarazona-Tarazona, the 11th stage of the Spanish Vuelta cycling race, in Tarazona, northern Spain on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013.

Associated Press

Cancellara wins Vuelta stage, Nibali leads overall

TARAZONA, Spain (AP) — Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland won the 11th stage of the Spanish Vuelta in a time trial, while Vincenzo Nibali of Italy took the overall leader's jersey on Wednesday.

Cancellara, with Radioshack-Leopard, tore around the 39-kilometer (24-mile) route in the central city of Tarazona to beat Tony Martin of Germany by 37 seconds and third-placed Domenico Pozzovi-

vo of Italy by 1 minute, 24 seconds.

Cancellara said the time trial was "quite different" because instead of being completely flat, it followed an undulating course with rises and dips.

"I was very happy with my pace," he said, "and I showed the good climbers that I'm still there and able to compete on this ground."

Nibali grabbed the leader's jersey from Christo-

pher Horner of the United States, who came fourth and vowed to try and win back the jersey at the next mountain stage.

"Normally a time trial is much flatter and it would have meant me losing much more time," said Horner, a teammate of Cancellara. "Do I think I can win back the race leader's jersey? The answer is yes." Thursday's stage is a 164-kilometer (102-mile) ride from Maella to Tarragona. □

4 ex-NFL players file new suit on concussions

JANET McCONNAUGHEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Four former NFL players have sued the league and its helmet maker, claiming they hid information about the dangers of brain injury.

The ex-players — Jimmy Williams, Rich Mauti, Jimmy Keyes and Nolan Franz — filed the federal lawsuit in New Orleans on Sunday. Last week, the NFL tentatively agreed to pay \$765 million to past players with

concussion-related health problems. The co-lead counsel for the plaintiffs in that case told The Advocate of Baton Rouge he expects the complaint of the four to be made part of the settlement. □

Review: Samsung watch blends style, tech wizardry

YOUKYUNG LEE

AP Technology Writer

SUWON, South Korea (AP)

— Samsung's Galaxy Gear, a new computing device worn like a wristwatch, is certain to pique much curiosity when it starts being worn in public. The intensely black rectangular screen and orange strap on the wrist of a Samsung executive immediately caught my eye as she entered a corporate meeting room to give a preview of the gadget. Samsung will start shipping the \$299 Gear smartwatch in September, ahead of a similar product expected from Apple. I had a chance to play with a pre-production unit for about 10 minutes and briefly with the version that Samsung announced Wednesday in Berlin on the eve of the annual IFA consumer electronics show.

Like similar products already being sold, the Gear is not an independent device. For useful functionality, the Gear needs to be linked with a specific Samsung smartphone or tablet computer. The pairing is done wirelessly over a Bluetooth connection built in to both sides.

The Gear's display is a touch screen measuring



JK Shin, head of Samsung Mobile Communications, presents the Samsung Galaxy Gear in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013. Samsung has unveiled a highly anticipated digital wristwatch well ahead of a similar product expected from rival Apple. The so-called smartwatch is what some technology analysts believe could become this year's must-have holiday gift. Samsung unveiled the Galaxy Gear on Wednesday in Berlin ahead of the annual IFA consumer electronics show.

Associated Press

1.63 inches diagonally. Its strap has an embedded camera. The Gear supports apps such as Facebook and lets the wearer answer incoming calls or check email without picking up the smartphone that's paired with it. The Gear is not the smartwatch with a flexible display, as disclosed in recent Samsung patent filings.

With smartphones and tablets now ubiquitous, the technology industry is try-

ing to create a new category of products to wow consumers. Many analysts believe the next big step for consumer electronics is advanced computing technology in everyday objects such as wristwatches and glasses.

Sony introduced its latest SmartWatch in June and unveiled an update Wednesday. Qualcomm announced a smartwatch on Wednesday as well. Google is working on

Google Glass — a device designed to work like a smartphone and be worn like a pair of glasses. Apple is seeking an iWatch trademark and is widely believed to be developing a watch that uses the same iOS software as its iPhone and iPad devices.

Meanwhile, the response to projects such as Pebble, a smartwatch that received more than \$10 million in investment pledges through funding website Kickstart-

er, also attests to the public interest in this trend. It didn't take me long to see what Samsung is trying to achieve. It wants to attract not only tech addicts who must have the latest gadget but also young, design-conscious consumers. The Gear's design flair and ease of use are its sweetest attributes, but it may not entirely please either group. Although powered by the Android operating system, like many phones and tablets, it will work only with Samsung devices — and only with newer models.

At about twice the price of the Sony SmartWatch and the Pebble, the Gear boasts a camera, a speakerphone and plenty of apps — about six dozen, according to Samsung. Apps include Twitter and sports services such as RunKeeper, which tracks runs and other workouts. These are all great features, but the 1.9 megapixel camera is of poorer quality than a typical smartphone camera. In addition, moderate use of the device will require a daily battery top-up with yet another charger to keep track of.

I can imagine wearing the Gear with a casual dress or a formal outfit. It is sleek, with a thin metallic bezel surrounding the display. The strap comes in six different colors — black, gray, orange, beige, gold and green. But the screen, which is pitch black in idle mode, probably draws more attention than a tasteful accessory should. The dark recess in the strap where the camera's lens is embedded will also elicit questions from the curious. In terms of what the Gear can do, the three features I tested worked efficiently. It was easy to activate the camera and quick to shoot a photo. It left both hands free while placing and answering calls. The Gear alerted me with a nice soft buzz and showed a preview of a newly arrived email. The full message can also be read. Samsung says replies are possible through voice dictation. □

New Android system named 'KitKat'

MAE ANDERSON

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Google, which is known for nicknaming its Android mobile operating systems for smartphones and tablets after desserts, has chosen a brand-name candy for its 4.4 version that's expected to launch this fall: Kit Kat.

Financial terms weren't disclosed for the sweet deal between Google and Hershey Co., which makes Kit Kat. But the deal shows that naming a stadium or sponsoring a TV show can be seen as old school. The latest marketing craze may be to slap a brand name on a tech product.

Google approached Hershey about six to nine months ago for permission to use the name, said Jennifer Podhajsky, vice



This undated product image provided by The Hershey Company shows the new Kit Kat label for The Hershey Company featuring Android's green robot mascot breaking a Kit Kat.

Associated Press

president of U.S. chocolate at Hershey, which licenses the Kit Kat brand in the U.S., while Nestle owns the worldwide brand.

Podhajsky said that Kit Kat's jingle is a good fit for people taking a break to look at their smartphones or

tablets. She added that the deal appeals to Hershey because Android hits the sweet spot of Kit Kat eaters, who are typically between the ages of 18 and 34. "Kit Kat consumers are young, vibrant consumers of candy and chocolate

bars, and that's a nice match with Android," Podhajsky said.

The Kit Kat name was unexpected since tech pundits have speculated for months that the next operating system would be called Key Lime Pie. Marc Vanlerberghe, director of Android Marketing, said the name was chosen because Kit Kat bars have been a "favorite go-to snack among the team since the early days of Android."

The Android 4.4 Kit Kat system is expected to launch in October. The software is now running on more than 750 million smartphones and tablets throughout the world, making it the world's most widely used mobile operating system. □

Nasdaq Stock Market reports another system glitch

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Nasdaq Stock Market said Wednesday that one of its trading systems had a brief outage, but the problem was resolved and trading was not affected. Nasdaq OMX, the parent

company of the Nasdaq Stock Market, said the outage lasted six minutes — from 11:35 a.m. EDT (1535 GMT) to 11:41 a.m.

The outage occurred in one of Nasdaq's quote dissemination channels, which are used to provide real-time price quotes on

stocks. The companies affected by the outage have stock tickers PC through SPZ. The outage is the latest technical difficulty to hit the exchange, which endured a three-hour trading outage on August 22.

That outage was also blamed on the exchange's

price quote disseminating system.

In Washington, Securities and Exchange Commission spokesman John Nester said the agency is in contact with the exchange and monitoring developments, as is its practice in these situations. □

Oil unstable as US weighs Syria action

PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press

The price of oil fell Wednesday amid uncertainty over U.S. plans to launch a punitive strike against Syria.

U.S. benchmark oil for October delivery fell \$1.31, or 1.2 percent, to close at \$107.23 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Brent, the benchmark for international crudes, dropped 77 cents to \$114.91 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

During a visit to Sweden, President Barack Obama said the credibility of the international community and Congress is on the line in the debate over how to respond to the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 10-7 to give Obama the authority to use military force against Syria. One senator voted present. The full Senate is expected to vote on the measure next week.

The U.S. says it has proof that the regime of President Bashar Assad was behind attacks that Washington claims killed at least 1,429 people, including more than 400 children. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which collects information from a network of anti-regime activists, says it has so far only been able to confirm 502 dead.

Russian President Vladimir Putin warned the West Wednesday against taking one-sided action in Syria but also said Russia "doesn't exclude" supporting a U.N. resolution on punitive military strikes if it is proved that Damascus used poison gas on its own people.

While Syria is not a major oil producer, the possibility of a wider conflict could interrupt production and shipping routes in the region, said Chris Faulkner, CEO of Breitling Energy Companies. □

Stocks end higher on upbeat economic news

KEN SWEET

MATTHEW CRAFT

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — A jump in U.S. auto sales and other good news on the economy helped drive the stock market higher Wednesday. General Motors and other carmakers surged after posting strong sales in August, giving the industry its best month in six years. "Car sales were really impressive," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital in New York. They're impor-

close at 14,930.87 and the Nasdaq composite rose 36.43 points, or 1 percent, to 3,649.04.

Jim Russell, a senior equity strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management in Cincinnati, said recent economic reports have drawn a brighter picture of the global economy, even as concerns over a U.S. strike on Syria have claimed much of the public's attention.

A trade group said Tuesday that U.S. factories increased production last

Chrysler and Ford each reported 12 percent gains. Toyota posted the biggest increase as sales rose nearly 23 percent since August of last year.

GM climbed \$1.71, or 5 percent, to \$35.85, one of the biggest gains in the S&P 500 index. Ford rose 57 cents, or 3 percent, to \$16.91. The Nasdaq Stock Market ran into technical problems for the second time in two weeks. The exchange reported that its system for disseminating prices had a brief outage,

pect that the U.S. created 177,000 jobs last month and that the unemployment rate held steady at 7.4 percent, according to the data provider FactSet. Friday's jobs report is the last major piece of economic data the Federal Reserve will have to work with before the central bank decides whether or not to pull back on its massive bond-buying program. That program has kept interest rates abnormally low. While most investors believe the Fed will begin to pull back, the question has become when and how much.

"Even if the August employment figures were weaker than expected, we think the odds would likely still favor a September (pullback), just of a smaller magnitude," economists with the investment bank RBS wrote in a note to clients.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note edged up to 2.89 percent from 2.86 percent late Tuesday. The price of crude oil fell \$1.31, or 1 percent, to close at \$107.23 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Gold fell \$22, or 2 percent, to \$1,390 an ounce. Among other stocks making big moves:

— Dollar General jumped \$2.51, or 5 percent, to \$56.39 after the discount store chain reported profits that narrowly beat Wall Street analysts' estimates. In contrast to some of its competitors, Dollar General said sales at stores open more than a year climbed. — Francesca's Holdings, which operates the francesca's line of retail stores, plunged after reporting results that fell short of Wall Street's estimates. □



The Nokia brand name is displayed on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in New York. A jump in U.S. auto sales and other good news on the economy helped drive the stock market higher Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

tant for what they suggest about the larger economy: solid consumer spending and increased manufacturing. "It means the economy is holding up," Cardillo said.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 13.31 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,653.08.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 96.91 points, or 0.7 percent, to

month at the fastest pace since June 2011, propelled by a sharp rise in new orders. Separate reports out Monday showed stronger manufacturing in Europe and China.

"All of these add up to better economic growth on a global scale," Russell said.

On Wednesday, General Motors said its sales rose 15 percent last month, while

from 11:35 a.m. to 11:41 a.m., but said trading was not affected.

On Aug. 22, all trading in Nasdaq-listed stocks was halted for three hours because of a problem with the same quote-disseminating system.

Investors were also looking ahead to Friday, when the August jobs report will be released. Economists ex-

World automakers report sales up double-digits in August



Workers guide the sign for the newly remodeled Quality Buick GMC Cadillac dealership at 1620 Homer Adams Parkway in Alton, Ill. The major U.S. and Japanese automakers all posted double-digit U.S. sales gains for July, 2013. (AP Photo/John Badman)

**DEE-ANN
TOM KRISHER**
AP Auto Writers

DURBIN

DETROIT (AP) — The major U.S. and Japanese automakers all posted dou-

ble-digit U.S. sales gains last month as car buyers snapped up pickup trucks and small cars to lead the industry toward its best month in six years.

Honda reported the biggest gain with sales up almost 27 percent over August of last year. Toyota sales rose nearly 23 percent, while Nissan was up

22 percent. At General Motors, sales were up almost 15 percent for the company's best month since September of 2008. Chrysler and Ford each reported 12 percent gains.

Auto stocks rose, with Ford and GM up around 4 percent. U.S.-traded shares of the Japanese automakers all rose more than 1 percent. Sales in August ran at an annual rate of 16.1 million cars and trucks, a pace not seen since November of 2007, a month before the start of the Great Recession.

Mustafa Mohatarem, GM's chief economist, predicted that rate of sales is here to stay. History, he said, shows that auto sales follow a trend, and that trend is now back above pre-recession levels.

"With the underlying economy fairly solid and with the still very high average age of the fleet, I have full expectations that we will continue to see a fairly steady industry," Mohatarem said.

The average age of a vehicle on U.S. roads today is a record 11.4 years according to the Polk research firm. That means more people have to replace cars and trucks that they kept through the recession. While GM didn't officially raise its sales forecast for the year from 15.5 million, Mohatarem said he expects the year to end with sales closer to 15.8 million vehicles.

Also, the industry is on better footing than it was in 2007. Prices are high and automakers aren't resorting to huge discounts to pull customers into showrooms, Mohatarem said.

Consumers are spending at record levels to buy loaded-up vehicles, according to the TrueCar.com auto pricing web site. The average U.S. vehicle sold for an estimated \$31,252 last month, up almost \$1,000 over August of last year and \$24 higher than the previous record in December of 2012. Five automakers, Chrysler, Ford, Honda, Nissan and Volkswagen, all had record-high selling prices last month, according to TrueCar.

High trade-in values are allowing automakers to offer attractive low-cost lease deals. And low interest rates are giving buyers room to add options and still keep monthly payments relatively low. The industry tracking firm Experian said earlier this week that nearly 28 percent of people who financed cars in the second quarter leased them, a record high.

LMC Automotive, an industry consulting firm, is predicting that total U.S. sales last month were close to 1.5 million, about 12 percent higher than a year ago. That's the highest number since May of 2007. Honda's sales were led by a record month for the popular CR-V. The company sold nearly 35,000 of the crossover SUVs. Toyota sold almost 45,000 Camry midsize cars, up 22 percent from August of last year. The Camry is the top-selling car in the U.S., and sales had been down slightly this year through July.

Ryanair shares slump 15% on profit warning

S. POGATCHNIK
Associated Press

DUBLIN (AP) — Shares in Ryanair suffered their biggest drop in four years Wednesday after Europe's top budget airline issued a rare profit warning due to low autumn ticket sales that reflected the weak economy and aggressive competition.

Chief Executive Michael O'Leary said his Dublin-based airline, which typically exceeds its profit forecasts, now expects to fall short of its previous 2014 outlook and might not reach its minimum sales target of 570 million euros (\$751 million) for the fiscal year ending in March.

The company's shares fell nearly 15 percent to 5.78 euros (\$7.62) — a five-month low and their biggest drop since October 2009 — as analysts expecting Ryanair to eclipse 600 million euros in profit warned that the airline now looked overvalued. Ryanair last issued a profit

warning in 2004.

Ryanair's statement sent the shares of other European airlines lower Wednesday. Ryanair's top budget competitor, Britain's easyJet, fell 7.5 percent. International Airlines Group, the parent of British Airways and Spain's Iberia, fell more than 4 percent. Ryanair's main Irish rival, Aer Lingus, slid 5 percent. Lufthansa and Air France-KLM also traded lower.

O'Leary told a conference call that Ryanair's sales were experiencing "a perceptible dip" for the September-November period amid stronger competition in key British, Spanish and Scandinavian markets.

He said Ryanair would ground selected winter services, reduce its planned passenger payload from 81.5 million to 81 million — still a record for the ever-expanding airline — and offer steeper discounts on tickets for travelers in Ireland, Britain, Scandinavia and Spain.



Michael O'Leary, left, CEO Ryanair, and Ray Conner, President and CEO Boeing, hold a press conference in New York. Shares in Ryanair suffered their biggest drop in four years Wednesday after Europe's top budget airline issued a rare profit warning. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

He told journalists that Ryanair's weakening sales represented a "marginal" challenge, and was nothing like "collapse or catastrophe."

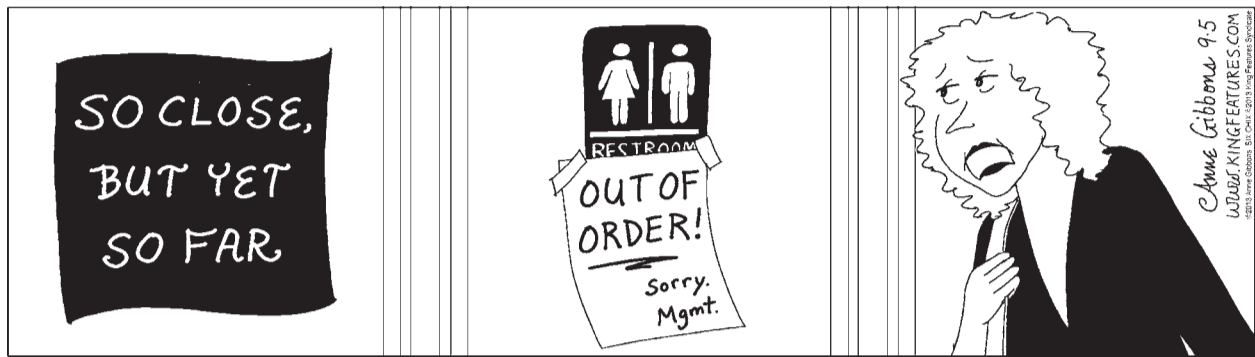
Since launching a single Ireland-England route in 1985, Ryanair has grown to become the most influential and successful airline in Europe, enjoying solid growth even as its recession-hit industry en-

dured massive losses, business failures and mergers. Ryanair pioneered policies of charging extra for everything from boarding cards to assigned seats, but many of these customer-annoying practices — designed to drive Ryanair cost-efficiency as well as profits — have gradually been adopted by competitors struggling to keep pace.

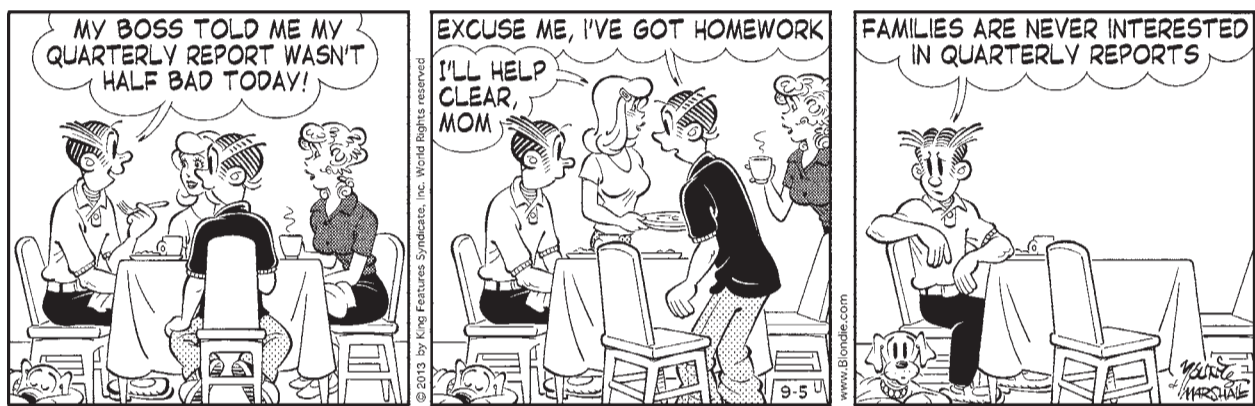
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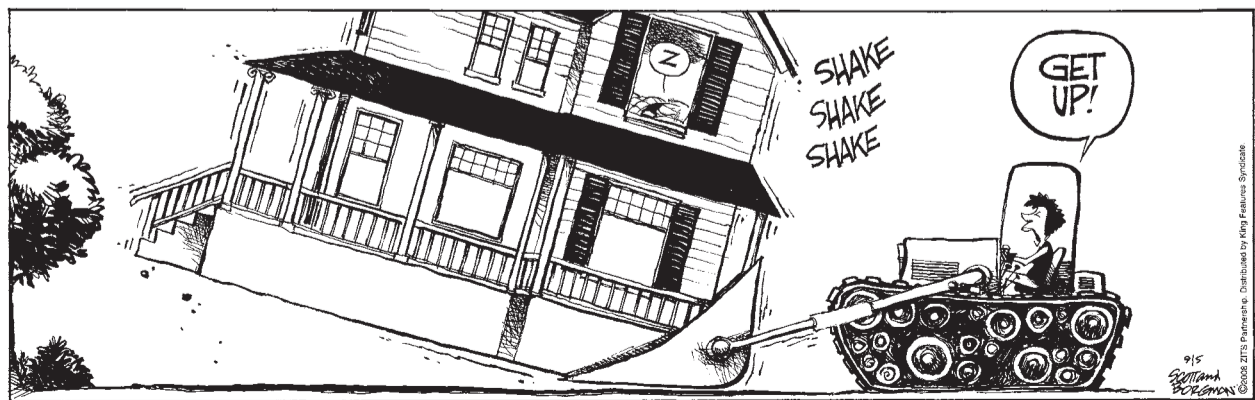
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	8		9		3	
9			6	5		1
	4		9	6		2
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	3		2	8		6
7			8	1		3
	2		5		8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/05

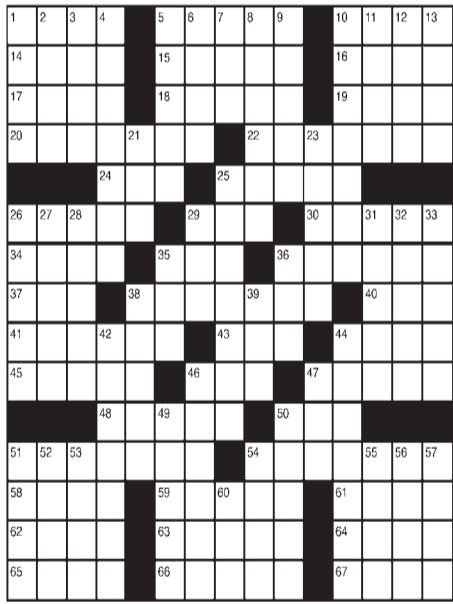
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	3	2	7	5	6	8	4	9
9	5	4	8	3	2	1	6	7
6	7	8	1	4	9	2	5	3
3	9	5	2	1	4	6	7	8
7	8	1	5	6	3	4	9	2
2	4	6	9	7	8	3	1	5
4	2	9	6	8	5	7	3	1
5	1	3	4	2	7	9	8	6
8	6	7	3	9	1	5	2	4

ACROSS

- 1 Calendar period
- 5 Punctures
- 10 Give the cold shoulder to
- 14 Wheel rod
- 15 "Thou shalt not ___ thy neighbor's wife"
- 16 Sit for a picture
- 17 Children
- 18 End of the Greek alphabet
- 19 Kiln
- 20 Height
- 22 Acrobat
- 24 Grow older
- 25 Bouquet holders
- 26 Our planet
- 29 Evergreen tree
- 30 Piers
- 34 Merriment
- 35 ___ Cruces, NM
- 36 Social outcast
- 37 Hither and ___; in all directions
- 38 Addition to a will
- 40 Parched
- 41 ___ out; gets rid of gradually
- 43 Foot digit
- 44 Ring out
- 45 Stories
- 46 Unruly crowd
- 47 Festive celebration
- 48 Steam
- 50 Late Bernie
- 51 Napoleon's title
- 54 Sets a VHS cassette back to the start
- 58 Close by
- 59 Capital of Afghanistan
- 61 Birdbrain
- 62 Valley
- 63 Gladden
- 64 ___ of Capri
- 65 Snow toy
- 66 Good judgment
- 67 Use the molars



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 9/5/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

RHO	SIGHS	WIFE
AIDS	TROOP	HORN
PLOT	RABBI	OWED
TRADITION	OATS	
BAKE	NAP	
CABBIE	SPICIEST	
ISLES	SCANT	VIA
DIED	SLANG	VEEP
EDS	BLUNT	HINGE
RESCUERS	HEATER	
AGE	CORD	
SLAB	PARAMOUNT	
TAXI	ERASE	CARP
EVEN	ROVER	TIER
MASS	SWISS	LEO

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- 38 Chavez or Romero
- 39 Ear of corn
- 42 Chopped off
- 44 Largest ocean
- 46 Mental outlook; spirits
- 47 Fido's foot
- 49 Jabs
- 50 Free-for-all
- 51 Calls a halt to
- 52 Repast
- 53 Faint in color
- 54 Grooves
- 55 Have a snack
- 56 ___ out; allot
- 57 Murdered
- 60 Refuse to allow

DOWN

- 1 Hairy oxen



The real point of Fashion Week, to promote collections to editors and retailers several months before they will be in stores, is becoming lost in the age of instant online accessibility.
(Keiko Morimoto/The New York Times)

The end of the runway for Fashion Week?

ERIC WILSON

© 2013 New York Times

NEW YORK - Fashion Week has been around in some form or another for 70 years, but (wouldn't you know it?) fashion people have been complaining about it for even longer.

In 1941, when the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union first invited 30 journalists to New York to visit the designer showrooms, its membership balked, not seeing how writing about clothes would help sell them. Even after Eleanor Lambert, the great 20th-century cheerleader for American fashion, got her hands on the event two years later and created the first "press week" at the Waldorf-Astoria, the rag reporters grumbled, though their numbers grew and grew.

"My face seems to show the lines of every silhouette that has appeared during the past 15 years," one of them groused in The New York Times. That was in 1958, when their numbers were about 200.

To the outside world, Fashion Week may look like the most fabulous party on earth, but insiders are getting a little tired of all the fuss. In its present form, it is more like Fashion Month, beginning Thursday with the overscheduled spring collections in New York and ending with those in Paris on Oct. 3, with no breaks in between for the now thousands of writers, retailers, photographers, videographers, bloggers and hordes of indeterminate somebodies who for various reasons Really Must Be There.

Designers, too, seem to be dreading this season, and more so than usual.

"It's depressing," Joseph Altuzarra said a few weeks ago at a party for a Web video about his clothes, already hustling in the supposed recess of summer. "Well, not depressing so much as panic-inducing." There is, in fact, a curious sense that just when fashion has become a vibrant force in popular culture, attracting a new generation of designers (and wannabes), Fashion Week is losing its relevance. Of course, people have been complaining that there are too many shows for more than a decade. (It was the subject of a front-page article in The New York Times 12 years ago, and look at Fashion Week now; it's nearly twice the size, with 350 shows and presentations during nine days.)

But the real point of Fashion Week, to promote collections to editors and retailers several months before they will be in stores, is becoming lost in the age of instant online accessibility. Factoring in the revved-up cycle of fashion, the addition of resort shows, the fashion show that takes place outside the tents for the street-style photographers, and the confused customers, Suzy Menkes, in a column in T: The Times Style Magazine last month, wondered "who needs more fashion and is gagging for yet another show?"

In fact, the major events in New York, London, Milan and Paris are coming under fire from all directions. Jewish editors and retail-

ers are upset that the New York and London shows overlap with the High Holy Days. Lincoln Center area residents are furious about the intrusion of the noisy shows and polluting generators into Damrosch Park and neighboring streets (and those shows, formerly in Bryant Park, appear to be on the verge of moving once again).

"Fashion Week needs to be rethought," said, of all people, Fern Mallis, who turned the shows into a wildly successful marketing and media event in the first place. In 1993, while executive director of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, she orchestrated Fashion Week's move to Bryant Park, where runway shows took place twice a year under enormous white tents for 15 years, establishing New York designers on par with their counterparts in Europe. The move to Lincoln Center in 2010, necessitated by a dispute with park management over the duration and timing of the shows, was heralded at the time for bringing the luster of the performing arts to fashion.

But there is little disagreement that the move has been a failure. In March, a lawsuit was filed against New York City and Lincoln Center over the use of the park for commercial events like Fashion Week and the Big Apple Circus, which effectively limit the public's access for most of the year. "Whether Lincoln Center will continue or not, we do not know," said Diane von Furstenberg, the president of the fashion council. □

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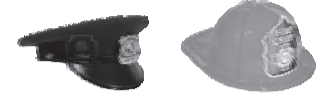
DOCTOR ON DUTY



Oranjestad
Dr. Velasquez

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POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
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Video game boosts mental abilities in older folks

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A specialized video game may help older people boost mental skills like handling multiple tasks at once.

In a preliminary study, healthy volunteers ages 60 to 85 showed gains in their ability to multitask, to stay focused on a boring activity and to keep information in mind — the kind of memory you use to remember a phone number long enough to write it down.

All those powers normally decline with age, Dr. Adam Gazzaley of the University of California, San Francisco, and colleagues noted in a study released Wednesday by the journal Nature.

The study was small, with only 16 volunteers training on the specially designed game. Gazzaley and other brain experts said bigger studies were needed to assess whether the game could actually help people function in their everyday



In this undated image provided by The Gazzaley Lab of the University of California, San Francisco, a study participant plays NeuroRacer in San Francisco. A preliminary study released Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013, suggests the game may help people in their 60s and older boost mental abilities like handling multiple tasks at once.

Associated Press

lives. He's co-founder of a company that aims to develop a product from the research.

The work is the latest indication that people can help preserve their brainpower as they age through mental activity. There are "brain training" games on the market and books de-

voted to the topic. Gazzaley stressed that his results don't mean any commercial video game can help mental performance. His game was designed to exercise specific abilities, he said. The game, called NeuroRacer, involves doing two things simultaneously. A player uses a joy-

stick to guide a car along a hilly, twisting road, steering it and controlling its speed. At the same time, a series of signs — actually, colored shapes — appears on the screen. The player is supposed to push a button only when a particular kind of sign appears. Players were scored on how quickly and accurately they reacted to the right signs.

The game progresses to harder levels as a player improves, to keep it challenging.

In a separate experiment with 174 volunteers between the ages of 20 and 79, the researchers found that as people age, driving the car interferes more with performance on reacting to the signs.

But for 14 of the 16 participants who played the game at home for a total of 12 hours over a month, the training decreased the amount of interference. In fact, on this measure they did better than a group of 20-year-olds who played

the game for the first time. The improvements were still apparent six months after the training stopped.

Researchers also found changes in brain wave activity that correlated with how well the improvement persisted at six months, as well as performance on a test of sustained attention for a boring task.

Brain experts unconnected with the study said previous research has shown that older people can improve on mental skills such as multitasking if they are trained. But the training in past multitasking studies was "boring," said Elizabeth Zelinski, a professor of gerontology and psychology at the University of Southern California. Art Kramer, a neuroscientist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, called the work a promising first step toward a possible therapy. Scientists still have to demonstrate the results will hold up with larger groups of test subjects, he said. □



In this March 11, 2011 file photo, boats collide with one another after a tsunami surge of water swept through a boat basin in Crescent City, Calif.

Associated Press

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — If a monster earthquake struck off Alaska's coast, tsunami waves would rush toward California, crippling the nation's busiest port complex and flooding coastal communities, a report released Wednesday suggests.

The potential impacts, based on a hypothetical magnitude-9.1 jolt off the Alaskan peninsula, were detailed by a team led by the U.S. Geological Survey

to help emergency responders prepare.

Tsunamis are a rare but real threat in California. After the 2011 Japan disaster, tsunami waves raced across the Pacific and damaged boats and docks in the commercial fishing village of Crescent City.

Scientists said a closer offshore quake would create more havoc.

The twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach could be shuttered for at

Report: Tsunami would swamp California's economy

least two days because of strong currents, potentially losing \$1.2 billion in business. The Oakland Airport would be flooded. Coastal communities would face mass evacuations, the report said.

Coastal planners held meetings this week around the state to digest the information and review their evacuation plans.

Under the scenario, it would take about four hours for tsunami waves to crash into communities near the Oregon state line and about six hours to reach San Diego — theoretically, allowing time for people to flee to higher ground. The force of the waves would sink boats docked in marinas and damage harbors.

This "helps them understand what a bad tsunami can be," said USGS seismologist Lucy Jones.

The team began work on the scenario before the

magnitude-9.0 earthquake that struck Japan in March 2011 and triggered a tsunami. It went back to the drawing board after seeing the toll on Crescent City and other coastal cities. The group focused only on California, even though a powerful offshore Alaska quake would affect the West Coast.

Patrick Corcoran, an Oregon State University expert on earthquake and tsunami hazards, praised the scenario for being realistic. But he said it's a challenge to prepare people for a rare disaster.

"People just go into freak-out mode" when past tsunamis have hit the U.S., said Corcoran, who had no role in the report.

The latest scenario is similar to a quake exercise released several years ago designed to prepare California residents for the "Big One" on the San Andreas

Fault. Unlike the quake report that estimated 1,800 casualties, scientists did not include a death toll this time since they could not predict how evacuations would be handled during a tsunami.

Since 1812, the California coast has seen only a handful of tsunamis with waves higher than 3 feet. The deadliest occurred in 1964 when a magnitude-9.2 quake in Alaska triggered tsunami waves that killed 12 people in Northern California. □



Steven Tyler gives surprise show at Nashville club



This May 25, 2013 file photo shows Steven Tyler, lead singer of American rock band Aerosmith performing in Singapore during the inaugural Social Star Awards concert.

Associated Press

KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee

(AP) — Aerosmith singer Steven Tyler made a surprise appearance at a small Nashville club and performed two songs before the audience was ushered out for the next show.

The rocker was in the audience Tuesday night at the Bluebird Cafe watching songwriters perform. The 90-seat venue is where many country music sing-

ers first got their break and where many established artists often stop by to play a few songs or listen. Songwriter Marti Frederiksen invited Tyler to sing "Jaded,"

which Frederiksen co-wrote. Tyler then jumped on the piano to belt out the band's power ballad "Dream On."

Tyler told The Associated Press that he had never performed in a room that small and that he was in Nashville to write songs. □

Julie Andrews, Tina Fey to salute Carol Burnett

BRETT ZONGKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Julie Andrews, Tony Bennett, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler will honor Carol Burnett as she receives the top U.S. humor prize in Washington. The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is awarding Burnett the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor on Oct. 20.

The lineup of entertainers who will salute Burnett on stage also includes Maya Rudolph, Martin Short and Lucie Arnaz, the daughter of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz.

Burnett became famous playing a variety of characters in sketch comedy routines for 11 years on TV's "The Carol Burnett Show." She had her breakout on Broadway in "Once Upon



U.S. singer Tony Bennett smiles during a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013.

Associated Press

a Mattress" while also appearing on morning TV. The prize honors author Mark Twain's tradition of satire and social commentary. □



This image released by ABC shows, standing from left, NFL wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson, comic Bill Engvall, TV personality Jack Osbourne, actor Corbin Bleu, Bill Nye, the "Science Guy," actor Brant Daugherty, and seated from left, TV personality Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi, actress Valerie Harper, singer-actress Christina Milian, actress Elizabeth Berkley and actress Amber Riley on "Good Morning America," Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013 in New York. These 11 celebrities, along with actress Leah Remini, will be the next celebrity contestants on the dance competition series "Dancing with the Stars," premiering Sept. 16.

Associated Press

Valerie Harper joins 'Dancing With the Stars' competition

ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Busy cancer patient Valerie Harper leads a class of 12 amateur hoofers in the upcoming 17th season of "Dancing With the Stars." The cast was revealed Wednesday on ABC's "Good Morning America." For a show that has reached an increasingly older audience, ABC added an injection of youth with reality stars Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi of "Jersey Shore" and Ozzy's kid Jack Osbourne.

Harper has defied odds with her survival since being diagnosed earlier this year with brain cancer. She recently filmed a movie role and joined a Nick at Nite reunion of "The Mary Tyler Moore" cast.

A brain scan last month showed improvement for the 74-year-old former sitcom star, whose doctors say her cancer is getting close to remission. She will have her next scan in October.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Harper said that so far, she's not tak-

ing any precautions when she's rehearsing.

"He (pro partner Tristan MacManus) says, 'Do you want to get water?' Which is great because I don't drink enough water but (that's) not to do with the cancer ... (it's) not an impediment to dancing and I just try to stay healthy and continue to lose weight so I look halfway decent in the costumes," she said with a laugh.

Harper said of her decision to join the show: "There's a (Lee Ann Womack) country song (with the lyrics) 'when you get the choice you sit it out or dance/ I hope you dance.'" Other contestants on the new season of "Dancing," which premieres Sept. 16, are Bill Nye, the "Science Guy"; "Pretty Little Liars" actor Brant Daugherty; former NFL wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson; singer-actress Christina Milian; actress Elizabeth Berkley; "High School Musical" actor Corbin Bleu; "Glee" actress Amber Riley; country comic Bill Engvall; and "King of Queens" actress Leah Remini.

The celebrities and their pro partners, minus Remini and dancer Tony Dovolani, all made the trek to New York to promote the show's return.

Although still a ratings winner for ABC in its 16th season, the celebrity dancing contest has seen its overall audience decline and grow older, an issue for networks that get higher commercial ad rates for younger viewers.

"Dancing" will now air once a week on Mondays rather than Mondays and Tuesdays. "One day a week is fine with me! I need more time to rehearse," said Milian. "You get all the action in one night. It's all killer, no filler," said her partner, Mark Ballas. And with younger contestants like Bleu, Daugherty and Riley, the show might skew to a more youthful demo.

There are changes behind the scenes, too. There are new professional dancers, plucked from the show's troupe. Contestants are starting off with a four-hour rehearsal limit per day that will hopefully cut down on injuries and fatigue. □

New PBS team low key about milestone

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Gwen Ifill and Judy Woodruff didn't think much about the milestone upon being appointed the first women to co-anchor a national daily news program on television — until flowers began filling their offices and strangers offered congratulations.

The veteran journalists are the regular co-hosts of PBS' "NewsHour," effective Monday. They will be the faces for a newscast known for many years as the home of founders Jim Lehrer and Robert MacNeil.

Two days earlier, PBS will premiere a new weekend edition of "NewsHour," based in New York instead of Washington. Hari Sreenivasan will be the host.

In 2006, Katie Couric at the "CBS Evening News" became the first woman to solely anchor a national newscast. Ifill said she was surprised by how many people made a big deal of two women anchors when PBS announced the change in early August.

"I'm very touched by that," she said. "I'm most touched by young women who stop me on the street and tell me how happy they are about this. I'm amazed at the investment people have in this."

Following Lehrer's retire-



This image provided by PBS shows co-anchors Judy Woodruff, left, and Gwen Ifill in the newsroom of "PBS NewsHour," a national news program. Ifill and Woodruff are the first women to co-anchor a national daily news program on television.

ment two years ago, Ifill and Woodruff were part of a five-person anchor rotation with Jeffrey Brown, Ray Suarez and Margaret Warner. Two of the five anchored each night, depending on their schedules. There was nothing wrong with it, said the show's executive producer, Linda Winslow. But she came to conclude that a regular team makes for a sharper identity; people are more likely to say they watch Brian Williams instead of the NBC "Nightly News," for example. The new anchors have lengthy Washington resumes. Woodruff, 66, was a White House correspon-

dent for NBC News during the Carter administration and has two stints at PBS with 12 years at CNN in between. Ifill, 57, started in print, working at The Washington Post and The New York Times, before joining NBC News and then PBS in 1999. Ifill hosts "Washington Week," meaning Woodruff will fly solo on the "NewsHour" on Fridays.

Both say they share sensibilities and news instincts. "She's exactly the kind of person you'd want to have by your side if there's a big, breaking story," Woodruff said of her partner. "You want to be beside someone you can trust, whose

judgment you can trust." Winslow said it seemed to be the combination that clicked. The women think alike, but have distinct styles. During interviews, Ifill is more conversational, Woodruff more questioning. "She's leaning forward and Gwen is more inviting you to come forward," she said. "NewsHour" anchors have often seemed more like solo artists than a team. Winslow said there will be an effort to have Ifill and Woodruff appear on-screen together more and interact.

The show helped draw attention to the pairing when Ifill and Woodruff inter-

viewed President Barack Obama last week, with the poison gas attack in Syria the chief topic.

Even for veteran reporters, a presidential interview is a nerve-wracking experience. You live in fear of missing something obvious. You have to balance to-the-minute reporting of breaking news with more reflective questions knowing, as Ifill said, "all your planning can go out the window in an hour." And for the two anchors, each had to be conscious of giving her partner equal time. Both women were also named managing editors of "NewsHour," joining Winslow in shaping the day's broadcast.

"It means that every day we wake up, we're not just thinking about our own segments within the show," Woodruff said. "It means that every day you're thinking about the whole program. But that's a good thing." Ifill and Woodruff will bring their own ideas for changes, comfortable knowing that no overhaul is necessary. "The 'NewsHour' occupies a place that doesn't exist anymore in broadcast television, which is an hour-long, uninterrupted chance to let people finish their sentences," Ifill said. "We're very careful of that franchise, but we are also aware of ways that we can freshen it just with our presence." □



In this Nov. 8, 2012, file photo, Jon Stewart performs at the 6th Annual Stand Up For Heroes benefit concert in New York. Stewart returned Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2013, to 'The Daily Show' after being off Comedy Central since June 6 directing and producing a movie. Associated Press

Jon Stewart returns to 'The Daily Show'

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jon Stewart is back as host of "The Daily Show," and the shaggy beard he grew over the summer is gone. In his return Tuesday, Stewart referenced stories he missed — New York mayoral candidate Anthony Weiner's sexting and Miley Cyrus' sultry MTV dance — then took up the challenge of trying to make comedy and social commentary out of the Syria alleged poison gas attack. Stewart had been off Com-

edy Central since June 6, directing and producing a movie. British comedian John Oliver subbed, to strong reviews.

Stewart was welcomed in an extended skit with Oliver and Stephen Colbert, who tried to bring back the old Stewart after Oliver mock-worried that "the Middle East has changed him."

Back at his desk, Stewart beckoned the camera close to whisper to his audience: "I've missed you so much. You don't know what it's like in the real

world. Nobody applauds every stupid (expletive) thing that you do."

Stewart played a tape of President Barack Obama urging military action against Syria.

"America taking military action against a Middle East regime," Stewart said. "It's like I never left."

After showing Secretary of State John Kerry referring to "signatures of sarin gas" in the attack, Stewart launched into a mock commercial for "Signature of Sarin" perfume.

"I came back to a dark,

dark place," he said.

He played news network tape of various commentators saying that military action against Syria is necessary because the United States would look weak without doing it.

"Oh, right," he said. "We have to bomb Syria because we're in the seventh grade."

He conducted an interview with the head of the United Nation's relief effort in Jordan, taking care of refugees from Syria that have now exceeded two million. □

Love For Labor Lost



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

It wasn't always about the hot dogs. Originally, believe it or not, Labor Day actually had something to do with showing respect for labor.

Here's how it happened: In 1894 Pullman workers, facing wage cuts in the wake of a financial crisis, went on strike - and Grover Cleveland deployed 12,000 soldiers to break the union. He succeeded, but using armed force to protect the interests of property was so blatant that even the Gilded Age was shocked. So Congress, in a lame attempt at appeasement, unanimously passed legislation symbolically honoring the nation's workers. It's all hard to imagine now. Not the bit about financial crisis and wage cuts - that's going on all around us. Not the bit about the state serving the interests of the wealthy - look at who got bailed out, and who didn't, after our latter-day version of the Panic of 1893. No, what's unimaginable now is that Congress would unanimously offer even an empty gesture of support for workers' dignity. For the fact is that many of today's politicians can't even bring themselves to fake respect for ordinary working Americans.

Consider, for example, how Eric Cantor, the House majority leader, marked Labor Day last year: with a Twitter post declaring "Today, we celebrate those who have taken a risk, worked hard, built a business and earned their own success." Yep, he saw Labor Day as an occasion to honor business owners.

More broadly, consider the ever-widening definition of those whom conservatives consider parasites.

Time was when their ire was directed at bums on welfare. But even at the program's peak, the number of Americans on "welfare" - Aid to Families With Dependent Children - never exceeded about 5 percent of the population. And that program's far less generous successor, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, reaches less than 2 percent of Americans.

Yet even as the number of Americans on what we used to consider welfare has declined, the number of citizens the right considers "takers" rather than "makers" - people of whom Mitt Romney complained, "I'll

never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives" - has exploded, to encompass almost half the population. And the great majority of this newly defined army of moochers consists of working families that don't pay income taxes but do pay payroll taxes (most of the rest are elderly).

How can someone who works for a living be considered the moral equivalent of a bum on welfare? Well, part of the answer is that many people on the right engage in word games: They talk about how someone doesn't pay income taxes, and hope that their listeners fail to notice the word "income" and forget about all the other taxes lower-income working Americans pay. But it is also true that modern America, while it has pretty much eliminated traditional welfare, does have other programs designed to help the less well-off - notably the earned-income tax credit, food stamps and Medicaid.

The majority of these programs' beneficiaries are either children, the elderly or working adults - this is true by definition for the tax credit, which only supplements earned income, and turns out in practice to be true of the other programs. So if you consider someone who works hard trying to make ends meet, but also gets some help from the government, a "taker," you're going to have contempt for a very large number of American workers and their families.

Oh, and just wait until Obamacare kicks in, and millions more working Americans start receiving subsidies to help them purchase health insurance.

You might ask why we should provide any aid to working Americans - after all, they aren't completely destitute. But the fact is that economic inequality has soared over the past few decades, and while a handful of people have stratospheric incomes, a far larger number of Americans find that no matter how hard they work, they can't afford the basics of a middle-class existence - health insurance in particular, but even putting food on the table can be a problem. Saying that they can use some help shouldn't make us think any less of them, and it certainly shouldn't reduce the respect we grant to anyone who works hard and plays by the rules.

But obviously that's not the way everyone sees it. In particular, there are evidently a lot of wealthy people in America who consider anyone who isn't wealthy a loser - an attitude that has clearly gotten stronger as the gap between the 1 percent and everyone else has widened. And such people have a lot of friends in Washington. □



War, What Is It Good For?



ROSS DOUTHAT
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The following is an early, not-entirely-verified draft of remarks President Barack Obama was set to deliver this weekend announcing a strike in Syria. It was found in a rubbish bin outside the White House shortly after he changed course and decided to seek congressional approval first:

My fellow Americans, I'm speaking to you tonight because, at my orders, the United States has begun punitive strikes against the forces of President Bashar Assad of Syria.

There's a formula to this kind of address: some references to the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding inside Syria's borders, some nods to the international community's support, some claims about the threat the Assad regime poses to U.S. interests, and finally a stirring peroration about freedom, democracy and human rights.

But it's my second term, and I'm awfully tired of talking in clichés. So let's be frank: Striking Syria isn't going to put an end to the killing there or plant democracy in Damascus, so it's hard to make the case that our values are really on the line.

Nor are our immediate interests: Assad's regime doesn't pose a direct threat to the United States or our allies, and given the kind of people leading the Syrian rebellion these days, we may be better off if the civil war drags out as long as possible without a winner.

Nor do we have much in the way of official international support - no Security Council, no Arab League, not even the

British. We're down to the same "coalition of the willing" we started with in the 1770s: It's just us and the French.

Even at home, I don't have many cheerleaders. My base is naturally anti-war, half the Republican Party has turned anti-interventionist, and the hawks of the right and left see this kind of strike as too limited to be worthwhile.

No, this one's on me. And I owe you an explanation of what I'm thinking. Basically, it comes down to America's role on the international stage, and how we can use our extraordinary military preponderance for our own good and the world's.

One answer, embraced by my predecessor, is that we should be in the business of spreading democracy by force of arms. American military power should be deployed to challenge authoritarian powers whenever possible, to protect democratic governments and movements whenever necessary, and to topple dictators outright when the opportunity presents itself.

The experience of Iraq and Afghanistan exposed the limits of this expansive approach. Which is why I promised to chart a different course. After neoconservatism, I pledged a mix of realism and liberal internationalism, in which military force would be used much more sparingly, and American power would be placed in the service of a stable, rule-based, multilateral world order.

I still believe in the "stable" and "rule-based" part. But what the view from this office has taught me is that real stability still depends almost exclusively on the U.S. military's monopoly on global force. Multilateralism is a nice idea, but right now it's the Pax Americana or nothing. There's nobody else prepared to act to limit the ambitions of bad actors and keep them successfully boxed in.

And that's really all this intervention is about. There is an ac-

knowledgeable line around the use of chemical weapons, Assad's government flagrantly crossed it, and we're the only ones who can make him pay a price. Of course there's something arbitrary about telling a dictator he can kill his subjects with bullets but not gas. But there's something arbitrary about any constraint we impose on lesser powers. The point is to sustain an environment of constraint, period - in which troublemakers are constantly aware they can only push so far before U.S. military power pushes back.

True, pushing back won't necessarily make the underlying political and humanitarian situation better. But that isn't why we do it. It's not really about fixing problems or transforming regions or winning final victories. (That was the mistake that George W. Bush and Lyndon Johnson made, and that Ronald Reagan and Dwight Eisenhower avoided.) It's about demonstrating that there are limits to what other governments can choose to do without repercussions, and maintaining our credibility when we threaten to rain those repercussions down.

Look: I know Thomas Aquinas wouldn't endorse a war for American credibility, and I know the Barack Obama of 2007 probably wouldn't either. But most of my post-Cold War predecessors would, and did. And they've bequeathed me a world that - no matter what the headlines suggest - is more at peace than at any point in human history.

It's not a world free of tyranny, like my predecessor foolishly promised to pursue. But it's a world with fewer invasions, fewer war crimes, fewer massacres than in the past. And if we want to keep it that way, there has to be a price for crossing lines.

So that's the why of it. Thank you for your attention, and may God bless - and, if necessary, forgive - the United States of America. □

Fight Over Dunes Sets Neighbor Against Neighbor

KATE ZERNIKE

© 2013 New York Times

SURF CITY, N.J. - Anchor Produce Market sells homemade mozzarella, its own fresh salsa and what many regulars swear is the best sweet corn on Long Beach Island.

But, a sign on the counter declares, it will not sell anything to the owners of 63 Long Beach Blvd., 7 Coast Ave., 12 Sea View Drive South or 34 other nearby oceanfront properties.

Those owners have refused to grant easements to allow the federal government to build a massive dune along a 35-mile stretch of the Jersey Shore.

Without the protective ridge of sand, engineers predict it is only a matter of time before homes, neighborhoods, even entire communities are wiped out by rising seas - a reality brought into stark relief by the devastation from Hurricane Sandy.

So until they sign the easements, holdouts should buy their groceries elsewhere.

These and other pressure tactics have been aimed at persuading the more than 1,000 seaside homeowners on two barrier islands who are refusing to allow dune construction on their properties, in many cases to protect their ocean views. But the measures have transformed a philosophical battle of property rights versus public good into a bitter neighbor-versus-neighbor ground war all along the coast.

Towns have tried to shame holdouts into signing easements by posting their names on websites and sending them to newspapers. Defiant owners say they have received threatening emails and phone calls and had dog feces left in their mailboxes or thrown on their decks. Friends have stopped speaking.

Still, many homeowners remain resolute, having already resisted through two punishing hurricanes, public shamings - a tactic encouraged by Gov. Chris Christie, who said he had "no sympathy" for their concerns - and a decision

by the state's highest court that has encouraged towns to skip the easements and take the needed land by eminent domain. In August, the small town of Mantoloking announced its intention to begin doing just that to deal with its five remaining holdouts, with other communities expected to follow.

"It seems entirely selfish," said Mike Nichols, the owner of Anchor Produce, who considers himself "super lucky" because the storm in October washed four feet of sand into his home in nearby North Beach but

of Long Beach Township, who published Burkhardt's name along with other holdouts' on the town website. "It's an invitation for whackos to give you a hard time. It's my business whether I sign it or not." The dune project, part of a \$1 billion project to protect 50 miles of the state's beaches, which the Army Corps of Engineers has been discussing for more than a decade, involves building or raising existing dunes to 22 feet, which would have the secondary effect of adding about 200 feet of beach between

dunes were still damaged because of gaps left by neighbors without them. One example was in Surf City, where the corps had built dunes along all but two blocks of oceanfront, where six homeowners would not grant easements, providing an opening for the storm surge to flood the neighborhood. The damage led to a redoubling of the effort to complete the protective barrier, which the corps has said it will not do without the permission from all oceanfront property owners.

More striking, though, was how some people still refused.

Officials say the easements strictly prohibit the government from doing anything more than building and maintaining the dunes, similar to the easements owners everywhere give to sewer utilities and cable companies for lines under their properties. Opponents have warned against a government takeover, some fearing that signing easements will give towns permission to erect boardwalks or bathrooms, too.

"It almost sounded like by



Beachfront properties in Surf City, N.J., Aug. 30, 2013, where houses are built right on the beach. More than 1,000 homeowners are refusing to grant easements to build 22-foot dunes sand walls up and down the Jersey Shore, stalling a project intended to shield against storm damage.

(Hiroko Masuie/The New York Times)

did not destroy it. "The government doesn't want to annex your property," he added. "They want to build up dunes, protect everybody."

Holdouts say that they are within their rights and that efforts at persuasion have become abusive.

"I am almost tempted to say, does this guy have kids or grandkids, and I'll hack their school's computer and publish their grades," said Ken Burkhardt, alluding to Mayor Joe Mancini

homes and the ocean. Once built, the dunes become the property of the individual homeowners.

On the two barrier islands, between the Little Egg and Manasquan Inlets, the corps completed some dunes before Hurricane Sandy hit, and where there were dunes, the storm left relatively minor damage. Where there were not, homes - even many seemingly safely inland - were destroyed.

In some areas, homes with

"People say we're trying to bully or incite," Mancini said. "We're not trying to do any of that. What we're trying to do is get ready for the next storm - which will hit."

Hurricane Sandy prompted many homeowners to drop their opposition to the dunes.

"People came down to look at their houses after the storm and said, 'Where do we sign?'" said Peter Hartney, a councilman in Surf City.

signing the easement, you were giving all the rights to your private property," said Tom Cangialosi, the treasurer of Surf Cottages Homeowners Association in Ortley Beach, where the storm flooded all the houses with more than four feet of water. "You can't swallow that."

Lawyers sent cease-and-desist letters to towns that posted names of people who did not sign easements; the towns ignored them. □